

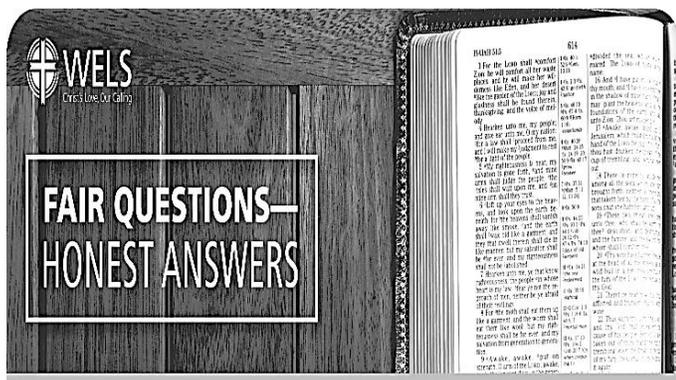


NEWSLETTER

August
2015

What is a Christian Worldview?

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. . . . your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” (Psalm 139:13-14)



Sam and Harry are two brothers who are able to see eye to eye on just about everything. But every August, it seems that they have a hard time agreeing on anything. Whenever football season starts up, Sam and Harry are always at odds. Though these two men had been born brothers, they grew up rooting for different teams. And whenever their rival teams play each other, Sam and Harry leave the stadium with very different views of the same game.

In many ways, Christians and non-Christians are able to see eye to eye when it comes to the ways of the world. Most people, no matter what their beliefs may be, like to be treated fairly, to have a feeling of personal security, and to have a sense of purpose in life. There are times, however, when a Christian's view of this world can be very different than their neighbor's. Often, it's the joys and woes of daily life that demonstrate the differences. Whether celebrating a milestone, or coping with a disappointment, or even facing death, Christians

and non-Christians can think, talk, and act very differently.

What makes a Christian 'tick'? Why do believers look at their world with such a different perspective? The answers to these questions reveal what Christian faith is all about. While the world around them believes in things like fairness, decency, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, a Christian believes in the God who is this world's Maker, Savior, and Counselor. Simply by speaking the words of a *Creed*, every Christian makes a powerful statement of who they really are—not only in relationship to their world, but also in relationship to the God whose world it is.

When a non-Christian sees a lifetime's worth of achievements as the sum total of hard work or as simple dumb luck, the Christian sees the hand of God. When a non-Christian sees a world filled with madness and uncertainty, the Christian sees a world for which Christ died. When a non-Christian struggles to see their purpose in life and where they ought to fit in the world, the Christian sees God's own Spirit at work.

Christians confess their faith in God. “This is the God who made me what I am, gives me what I have, and who holds this whole world in his hands!” Even if Christians and non-Christians can't see the world eye to eye, the truth of God is always in view.

For more Questions & Answers, go to
www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then
Questioning God.

CHURCH NEWS:

Worship and Picnic in the Park: Our church picnic will be held **Sun, Aug 23rd** at **Oscar Olson Park**, Glencoe. (*Note the location*) Our worship service will begin at 9:30am. A potluck dinner will follow the service. Watch Sunday bulletins for more info and mark the date on your calendar.

Sunday School: In August, we again focus our attention on the start of Sunday School in Sept. If you have any concerns, ideas or are interested in helping with Sunday School, attend our meeting on Mon, Aug 31st at 7pm or contact Pastor Reichow.

Chimes and Choir: With summer coming to a close, our fall/winter activities will start up again. We thank the Lord for the opportunity and ability to glorify him with music. Practice for chimes and choir will begin in Sept. Please speak to Lonnie R. or Kathy S. if you are interested in joining either group. Let's make some beautiful music!

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Marriage defined by God

By now it is well known that the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling that states same-sex marriage is a right guaranteed by the Constitution and that the states cannot forbid it. Whether this is now "the law of the land" that cannot be undone or whether there is any avenue for changing the decision is already being debated. Regardless, we find ourselves facing some important questions: What is the role of the church when it comes to a matter of politics and law? What is the responsibility of individual Christians whose beliefs clearly run counter to a governmental law or policy? And what ramifications will there be for congregations, schools, and individual believers?

Our synod's teaching regarding marriage has not and, God willing, will not change. We will continue to preach and teach what God says about marriage. We will continue to emphasize that, while the nation may recognize the validity of same-sex marriage, we will uphold the standard that the Creator of marriage has established. We will certainly not give the impression that the sin of homosexuality is in some way more serious or wicked than any other sin, but at the same time we will in love continue to proclaim God's law that condemns all sins and calls all sinners to repentance.

Congregations and their pastors may find themselves being asked to facilitate same-sex weddings. Of course we will not do that. We believe that it would be wise for congregations to adopt a policy that confesses our beliefs regarding marriage and states that, because of those beliefs, our pastors will not perform nor will our church sanctuaries be used for same-sex weddings. A written statement cannot prevent lawsuits, but it may be helpful in defending a congregation's practice if a lawsuit is filed. Some have asked whether the day will come when our pastors no longer serve as agents of the state by performing marriages. That may well happen—perhaps by our choice—when the state performs the legal marriage and the church provides the marriage worship service in which people publicly restate their marriage vows before God.

WELS will continue to confess publicly what we believe marriage to be. We will stand firmly on the Word of God and obey God rather than men. But as a synod, we will not become directly involved in a purely political effort or debate. The role of the church is to proclaim God's Word faithfully and boldly and to trust in the power of that Word to change hearts. ~ President Mark Schroeder

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LADIES AID

Members of the Ladies Aid are reminded of their meeting on Monday, August 10th at 6:00PM.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Ronald and Suzanne Schuth (24 th Anniversary)
3 rd	Benjamin Schuth
4 th	David Schmieg
10 th	Carolyn Lange
11 th	Kenneth and Pearl Ortloff (58 th Anniversary)
13 th	Taylor Schmieg Loren and Darlene Mackenthun (49 th Anniversary)
16 th	Jared Mathwig
18 th	Jennifer Scherer and Jonah Scherer
20 th	Rory Wills
22 nd	Dennis Rabe
23 rd	Roger Schuth
24 th	Marshall Dammann
25 th	Nathan Litzau
26 th	Bruce and Donna Goette (45 th Anniversary)
27 th	Keith Hardel and Laurie Litzau
28 th	Roger and Cindy Schuth (39 th Anniversary)
29 th	Helen Milbrand Gene and Leah Roush (23 rd Anniversary)