

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW INTEGRATION FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

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This project developed a planning guide for local church ministry leaders to implement an integrated biblical worldview into the local church. The project identified two critical problems for many ministries. The first is a too narrow focus on behavior modification. With this inadequate goal of seeking external behavioral modifications, ministries fail to facilitate spiritual growth in constituents; this precipitates declining statistical growth, weak leadership development, excessive attrition rates among long-established adherents, and diminished satisfaction among existing leadership. Ministries that move beyond a behavioral modification focus to address underlying value systems provide greater continuity, but lasting ministry results and spiritual maturity only follow implementation of an integrated biblical worldview.

The second critical problem exists as several generations of research in worldview have produced a myriad of materials that exhibit an overly technical focus, thus requiring knowledge and training outside of worldview studies. Materials developed for educational ministries often contain information and references that require formal training in teaching theory. Some materials are philosophically based providing rich resource for academically trained researchers but little practical application for local church ministries. Several push forward agendas and perspectives that limit usefulness to those willing to accommodate ingrained presuppositions.

The project seminar distilled technical materials into an easily useable guide providing direction for local church ministry leaders to implement an effective, integrated biblical worldview using existing curricular materials. The results of the “Biblical Worldview Integration for Effective Ministry” seminar processed through this project indicate initial success and a continued need for extensive application.