

Christian Worldview – Statement of Faith  
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Below is a summary of statements that reflect my Biblical Christian worldview for working with Christian clients. In addition, I focus on use of evidence-based cognitive-behavioral therapy treatments to address a variety of issues (e.g., anxiety, depression, etc.). This is a specialty practice, largely focused on providing Christian-based psychotherapy services. However, I work with individuals from all backgrounds and respect others' worldviews and personal/cultural preferences. I do not force my values upon others and respect others' personal worldviews and choices.

1. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at age 17. I have attended a variety of Christian Protestant churches over the years (Baptist, Assemblies of God, Nazarene, Willow Creek Association, and Christian and Missionary Alliance – current). Consistent with Christian and Missionary Alliance doctrine and statement of faith (<http://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/doctrine>), I believe that there is one God who is perfect and is comprised of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is fully God and man; He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He was without sin and died upon the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice to pay for our sins. All who believe in Him are justified by His shed blood. He arose from the dead. He is now at the right hand of God the Father. He will come again to establish his Kingdom. The Holy Spirit is a divine person sent to indwell, guide, teach, and empower Christians and to convince the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Bible is infallible, authoritative, and inspired by God. It includes a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of mankind and comprises the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice. Mankind was originally created in God's image and likeness but fell through sinful disobedience, which resulted in physical and spiritual death. All mankind is born with a sinful nature; is separated from God; and can only be saved through the work of Jesus Christ. Those who accept Christ exist forever in heaven in everlasting joy and bliss. The unrepentant and unbelieving exist forever in hell in conscious torment. I believe that salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all mankind; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive eternal life, and become children of God. I also believe that it is God's will that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, receiving power for holy living and effective service. Sanctification is both a choice and a progressive process for believers after salvation. The Church consists of all those who believe in Jesus Christ, are saved by His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into the world as a witness preaching the gospel to the world. The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the purposes of worshipping God, edification through God's Word, proclaiming the gospel, prayer, fellowship, and to observe ordinances (Baptism; the Lord's Supper). There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just (life) and of the unjust (judgment). We should be prepared for the second

- coming of Jesus Christ, which is imminent. The second coming is the believer's hope and an incentive to holy living and faithful service.
2. I believe that God created man without sin. I believe that we have lived in a broken world since sin entered the world through man's choice to disobey and sin when facing temptation. Human beings are broken spiritually, psychologically, and physically. I believe that salvation comes from God only through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. I believe that all healing comes from God, and whatever psychological healing I may affect, likewise comes from God.
  3. I believe in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ in regard to healing. The Bible teaches prayer for the sick and anointing with oil. I am open to seeing God affect a miraculous healing in my clinical practice.
  4. I pray with and for my clients and students where appropriate.
  5. I believe that Christian psychologists bring a quality of love to clients and this is one facet of the working of God's Spirit. This is a non-verbal communication of the grace of God that has tremendous power to heal.
  6. I am sensitive to the spiritual framework that my client brings with him/her and will work within its parameters. I am willing to bring my beliefs into the client/counselor relationship where appropriate; however, I do not force my values upon others and respect others' personal worldviews and choices.
  7. I have a view of creation that permits me to embrace truth. I find absolute truth in the Scriptures, which are God's revelations to man and both authoritative and infallible. I have also studied the field of clinical psychology, which I recognize has truths but limitations. Further, I recognize that, as a broken human being, I am prone to error and have the capacity to distort what I study.
  8. I believe that God revealed Himself in the world with remarkable specificity. I have found truths there which shape my understanding of reality. I find absolute truth in the Scriptures.
  9. I value my clients not only due to professional interest and care, but because I see in them as individuals uniquely created and loved by God. They still bear the image of God despite profound brokenness.
  10. I believe that humans suffer from a variety of conditions: physical, psychological, and spiritual. I therefore view sin as an intrinsic therapeutic category. Personal wholeness includes spiritual restoration with God.
  11. I believe that both men and women bear the image of God and therefore deserve equal value and honoring in every relationship.
  12. I believe that God is good, despite my persistent and troubling experience with understanding evil. I believe that the only comprehensive solution to evil will come through God's final intervention in the world.
  13. I believe that people need to be reconciled not simply to self and community but also to God. And I believe that the death of Christ on the cross plays a fundamental role in that reconciliation. I believe that through Christ and only Christ that one can be eternally saved.
  14. Christian counseling/therapy should work beyond symptom reduction. It should strive to bring about character formation and transformation.
  15. My clients' experience of the grace and mercy of God (incarnate in my own work) will be instrumental in their progress.

16. I believe that therapy is a place of mercy in which clients can discover who they are.
17. I believe that permanent transformation springs from grace wed to a work from God.
18. I believe that some healing is so profound, it requires a supernatural work of God's Spirit. I cannot quantify this entirely but I recognize a level of woundedness and evil that is beyond my reach.
19. I believe that restoration rarely happens when we live in isolation but requires community. I believe that the community of believers, the church, offers a valuable context of understanding, forgiveness, and healing.
20. On controversial topics, I respect and hold to teaching of Scripture. I practice clinical psychology in accordance with my professional ethics code. I practice clinical psychology accordingly and respect my clients, their differing worldviews, make appropriate referrals for services I am not knowledgeable about or competent to provide, and maintain knowledge of current research in my field.
21. Regarding topics of study that seem relatively neutral (e.g., statistics, research), I will approach such subjects with honesty, integrity, and in accordance with my professional ethics code.
22. I will attend to my own spiritual maturation as a personal and professional discipline.