



THE PASTOR'S VOICE

Insights from Church Leaders

The Pastor's Voice Podcast: Episode 6

Transcript: Worldview Training - Where Are The Churches

Reuel Sample: One of the most powerful images when I was growing up was the the image of a young boy standing in front of a tank at Tiananmen Square. And that's basically what we're doing with our kids. We're sending them off to be mowed over by the tanks of the world. They're completely unprepared, completely unready for what's going to face them.

Nancy Fitzgerald: And you know what? They can't defend their faith because they don't know what their faith is. Once we teach them the foundations of the faith, the confidence swells up in them. You can almost see them. They get it their whole. They're men and women that not only want to get their own life straight, but they want to be used by God to make a difference in this world. And that's the difference that worldview training can give them right now. Where is it? What two percent can tell you, why they believe what they believe, and only six percent are living it out? This is ridiculous.

Reuel Sample: But Nancy Nancy, these people go to church, they're part of youth groups. They're they're part. Why? Why the the need for worldview teaching from a golf pro? Why? Why are why aren't they getting worldview in church?

Nancy Fitzgerald: Because the pastors don't know it. They haven't been taught it. They haven't read about it. They haven't learned about it. I'm just being dead honest. They're not teaching this in seminaries, as you alluded to earlier. I mean, they aren't. I have one of the gals that has worked with me for a long time now. She is off getting her MDiv out

east. She's graded down because she believes that the Bible is the Word of God. She refuses to acknowledge that Genesis is nothing but a fairy tale. Their grading her down. And let me tell you, this is happening all over the place. They are not teaching this stuff in seminary. You can attest to this. They just simply are not teaching apologetics. And how do we live that out? And how do we defend our faith? It just blows me away, and it keeps me getting up every morning, working hard to try to reach as many people as we can before these kids walk away from their faith. But the churches, the pastors, for the most part, frankly, they don't care. They don't care what happens as long as those pews are filled and the coffers are filled, so to speak. You know, if they're big and they're rich, they they lose interest. I'm telling you. And it is. Where is the heartbeat for the younger generation to not just be able to survive in the workplace or college or wherever they go, but to thrive?

Reuel Sample: The kids who do go through your ministry, though, because I know you, you keep stats on everything and you follow up on everything. The kids that go through your your ministry and it's a ministry to older teens and and and and young college students. Is that correct?

Nancy Fitzgerald: That's correct.

Reuel Sample: How do these these kids who it's it really is a graduate level course in worldview once you get done with it all. How do they fare?

Nancy Fitzgerald: Well, you know, it's funny. I never talked to my kids as babies. I'm a horrible baby-talk person. I just talk to them straight up until they're born. Ok, what do you need here? You know, but I so I don't talk down to them. I talk up to them. I don't care how old they are. I talk up to them. I honor them and I respect them. And that is the key for a lot of this stuff. What happens with these, these young people, is that they didn't realize there was something other than just the superficial faith. And so when we when we look at this, this ministry and and try to figure out what on earth we're doing with these kids, we have to start from ground zero now and we have to start unlearning what they have packed in from the culture and let them understand that this is life changing, and I am only here to say that students that I talk to and I'm sure there are several that have been burned and they have burned out or somebody has misled them and they've walked away from their faith. But from the ones that we hang on to and we

follow, it was life changing for them because it became their own. It wasn't my faith. And I don't teach them. We don't teach them what they have to believe. We just show them the reason for the hope that you can have in the Christian faith and the stats that go with that. A lot of Josh McDowell's work that he did early on, you know, we use in that regard. We talk about probabilities. And when you consider one of our classes is the how do we know the Bible is true? And we teach it through half of that is through the idea of prophecies. 2000 prophecies in this Bible, 48 stand alone prophecies of the Messiah himself. Every single one of them are fulfilled. There is no religious book close to this. It could not have happened, but for God, it is humanly impossible that one man could have fulfilled it. I think the number is 10 to the one hundred and fifty seventh power, which doesn't mean anything to many of us, except 10 to the 50th power is beyond what the human mind can even contemplate. So all of a sudden, those those numbers seem to jump out at us. God put an exclamation point in that Scripture, saying, This is my son.

Nancy Fitzgerald: He is the Messiah he comes from from the beginning of time. Beyond he is eternal. He is my son. I have chosen him to die for the sins of all mankind. And it is so powerful and these kids drink this up and their lives change. As anybody's life would change when they realize this is true. The Bible is true. Jesus is who he said he is. And if that's the case, and there's heaven awaiting for those that believe that his son died and rose again, I am all in. And these kids get all in, not because they're forced to, but because they want to. They want the truth. And it's so interesting with all the horrible statistics out on kids. It's interesting that sixty five percent want a close relationship with God. Forty nine percent want to make a difference in the world and 75 percent want to be mentored. They want to learn. They want help. And I think our question that I would ask today is who is going to pick up the banner and lead these kids into a solid foundation of faith? And right now, they're not many hands in the air.

Reuel Sample: We've talked about the need for worldview, for our for our kids, we've talked about the spiritual challenges. What are our kids going through right now? What are they facing?

Nancy Fitzgerald: Well, first of all, they're facing parents that the statistics of their parents with their parents know about their faith is frightfully awful. I mean, just half or a little over half don't believe a good person can earn their way, you know, to heaven.

Almost half of them believe Jesus Christ committed sins. Over half of them denied the existence of the Holy Spirit. Over half of them don't believe that Satan is for real. You know, so my point being. Where are these kids going to get it? They are not getting it in church, they're not getting it typically through the youth pastor. Let me just say quickly. You know, there are some great churches and wonderful youth pastors who are doing amazing things. Let me tell you that and I've met many of those people. But by and large, if you look at the statistics, it is horrific what could be doing. We could be doing and are not. But these kids, they want to know who they are. They do not know who they are in the eyes of God. And that's the thing. Part of the problem with social media is they're creating their own reality as to who they are. They're being bullied, many of them are being bullied. Lots of suicides coming from that. Why? Because their identity comes from what people are saying on social media about them. And so the challenge for us is huge. They're very, very, very confused about their gender. These, this, this generation, they they don't understand who they are. They don't know what it means to be female. They don't know what it means to be male. Where are the male leaders, Christian leaders? But they're influencers. The greatest influencers, you know, are from from Hollywood. They continue to be from social media and they will follow them to their own death.

Reuel Sample: When we're looking at when we're looking at a national average of 50 percent of kids don't know who their parents are in the in the minority communities, it's it's even 70 percent. No wonder they they have no role models. They have no, especially in terms of boys and even girls, they don't they don't have any strong male role model because it's not there anymore.

Nancy Fitzgerald: It just simply isn't. And I think for us what we do, we teach teachers how to really engage with the younger generation, and now we're teaching adults trying to pick up the gap for them to teach them through our unanswered smoke mirrors and guide series that's really written for adults. But I don't I really we cannot necessarily fix what's present now in the cultures. But I will tell you, we can make a huge difference in the lives of kids growing up and teaching them. This is what God has called you to do. This is what God's called you to be as a father. But that your responsibility is to love them and and to show them Jesus in all of life. So they get it, and I can say, honestly, I keep in touch with some of these kids now they have kids and I talk about being old. It's just like, Oh, my goodness. But they're the majority of them still have their books with

them that we give them when they study this stuff. Still, take notes, still talk about it, many of whom have gone through now with their kids what they were taught. So they are hungry. I don't care what they say, they are hungry. They will learn if somebody takes the time to teach truth to them. And this is where it becomes a hard thing today because everybody is so busy. And then they wonder why their kids wander off, never go to church, abandon their faith. In the end I asked myself, You know, what's more important me doing x, y and Z, or me taking one day out of week to meet with kids, to counsel them, to encourage them, to teach them who God is, why they can depend on the scriptures and how to talk to people who are different, who think differently, how to how to forgive or how to love your enemy. What all that is about? That's what Worldview is. That's what we're teaching young people. For some reason, it resonates with them, it resonates with them.

Reuel Sample: If if this resonates so well, why do you think the church is so hesitant or even resistant to teaching worldview not only to our kids, but to the average parishioner?

Nancy Fitzgerald: Well, I think from what I the experiences I've had and trying to work with churches, I just I just left one project. I just can't do it anymore. It was a sad commentary and this is happening all over the country is that people want to come in and work with teens in their jealousy comes from the top down. And these churches from the pastor because they feel they're losing control because they aren't being hailed as chief and they will not entertain any program. But what? They don't have a piece of the action and it is killing churches. It is literally killing them. This one, I just had to step away from the we had trained, I don't know, 50 or 60 people within this church starting to teach the staff. The pastor got jealous, stop the staff training and relegated the campus pastor back to just essentially just doing the menial things in his church and no longer leading the effort to have a church become a worldview church. He was so jealous that people were loving it. And this is the case and I'm anxious to know what you have to say about this as well. But the jealousy and the lack of training of pastors in biblical world view themselves leaves them no choice. They can't teach what they don't know. We have given books. We have given links to our videos, all 21 of them. So pastors have no excuse not to learn this stuff, but they don't want to learn it. They don't want to learn it. It's not touchy and feely enough for them. They aren't getting enough credit for this or whatever.

Reuel Sample: It is tough for pastors to allow an outsider or for people within their church to be trained in something that they they have no complete control over it. Pastors are human, too. But if pastors were to take a moment to look at what you offer and what the benefits of a Christian worldview are, it's a no brainer. It really is a no brainer. I've taught Sunday school classes where we we talk about ethics and we talk about the the issues of the day and we ask the question How do we, as Christians deal with this? It is a game changer at that moment because, you know, they're all about talking politics. They're all about talking. How this president would handle this and how that president would handle this? Let's throw all that out the window. How do we as Christians handle this? And because there's no worldview background in their training and their lives, they don't know how to apply those scriptures.

Nancy Fitzgerald: You know you're you're right. I mean, right on. They don't know how to do it. They don't want is Christian. I mean, these are some of the starting points. What does it mean to be Christian? What is the Christian worldview? How does it differ from other worldviews and this whole idea of parents? Again, please ask your kids, when did you make your faith your own? Nobody's asking those questions, but that's the problem. And if if we assume anything anymore, we can't. I don't assume anything when we start our classes. You start with nothing and you just tell them that you're a normal person and you just love them and you want to work through it and make sure there are questions about life and God and anything else gets answer, and that there's no confusion about what it means to be a Christian. That's all. I mean, it's not that hard.