

Thinking and Discussing
Danger in the Academy:
Pitfalls Christian Academics Face and How We Can Respond to Them
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Pitfalls of Dualism and Myopic Worldview

1. What would be some indications that a subtle sacred/secular dichotomy might be influencing a persons views and attitudes?
2. What Scriptures would you use to demonstrate that your field is sacred—as sacred as Biblical studies or theology?
3. Read Colossians 1:15-22; 2:2b-3. Unpack everything you learn about a Christian worldview in these verses.
4. If a Christian colleague came to you and confessed that he realized that his Christianity wasn't adequately shaping his worldview or his teaching, how would help him?
 - a. What are some ways you might recognize elements of his worldview or teaching that inadequately reflect the universal Lordship of Christ?
 - b. What might be some evidences that a person has a biblically-grounded Christ-centered worldview?
5. What are some ways you can make Jesus more of an integral daily part of your research and teaching and your work with students?
6. How does your Christian worldview influence or shape your teaching content and methods?
7. Where is another country with fewer academic Christian resources where you might consider teaching?
8. In what ways do you think you are becoming more and more like Christ? In what ways less so?
9. If you are lecturing in a creative access country where it is not legal to mention your relationship with Christ, how would your Christian worldview shape your content and teaching methods, even if you could not quote the Bible or overtly Christian sources?
10. In what ways do you struggle with what a Christian worldview in your field means on specific issues?
11. In what ways might community and interaction with others help in your development of a Christian worldview?

12. How does worship—public and private—influence your worldview?
13. What kinds of questions could you use in your one-on-one discussions with other faculty or students to elicit discussions about the Gospel or a Christian worldview?
14. What visual symbols of your worldview could you use in your classroom or home?
15. Over coffee one day, a Christian faculty colleague admits that she feels more spiritual and closer to God when she is at church or reading her Bible than when she is teaching or doing research in her field? How would you respond to her?

In what ways does your affirmation of a Christian worldview make you a better scholar?

16. Why is it that some Christian academics prefer cerebral study about the implications of a Christian worldview in their discipline rather than wrestling personally with how to apply Christ's Lordship in their personal lives?

Pitfall of Pride

17. How often do you pray before you begin sessions of research and study?
18. What kind of difference do you think it would make if you actively invited Jesus to be your academic and teaching mentor? How would this work?
19. What do you think might change in your relationships with your students and colleagues if you began praying for them by name regularly?

Pitfall of Cold Dismissiveness

20. What are some ways you could intentionally connect more personally with your students and colleagues?

Pitfall of Fear

21. Why are so many of us afraid of sharing Christ or talking about our faith on campus?
22. How can you tell the difference between an unbeliever being offended because you are personally offensive or because of the natural offense of the Gospel?
23. What might be some “events” you could create to give you a more natural opportunity to share Christ with students?