

“HOW NOW SHALL WE LIVE?”
By Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey

In his book *How Now Shall We Live?* Chuck Colson presented relative and practical instruction for Christians living in a culture that is vastly influencing the rest of the world. His text thoroughly discussed the Christian life system as seen in creation, the fall of man, redemption, and restoration.

The biblical record of creation is the foundation of everything we believe. “Darwin’s speculation flies in the face of all the results of breeding and laboratory experimentation as well as the pattern in the fossil record” (p. 87). The concept of irreducible complexity certainly points to a designer. The text included excellent scientific studies and methodology in the creation versus evolution debate with the concluding analysis being that, “Life can be created only by an intelligent agent directing, controlling, and manipulating process” (p. 73). Colson made a valid point in asserting that the basis for all life is the Word of God. How true it is that the person who accepts the Word of God and lives within its framework avoids many of the fallacies of this world. Sadly, the validity of the creation account has been seriously undermined even among Christians. The bottom line is that creation points to the Creator and Darwinism points toward atheism.

Colson also wrote that, “The churches singular failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, or worldview, that governs every area of existence” (p. 12). Our Christianity has become unimportant and insignificant and it is making very little difference in our culture. The church has turned its focus inward, concentrating its resources upon itself, resulting in a “Reservation mentality.” Colson

warned that, “Christians had better get serious about understanding Biblical faith as a comprehensive world view and showing how it stands up to the challenges of our age” (p. 20). Colson said we need to be, “Ready to respond as people grow disillusioned with false beliefs and values” (p. 26), and “When the church is faithful to its calling, it always leads to a reformation of culture” (p. 37).

Many of the authors statements were thought provoking and unashamedly bold in identifying the various individuals who have played a major role in defrauding our country. “Sigmund Freud did more than anyone else to debunk the very notion of moral responsibility” (p. 176). Colson responded, “When we deny the Christian worldview and reject its teachings on sin and moral responsibility in favor of a more enlightened and scientific view of human nature, we actually end up stripping people of their dignity and treating them as less than human” (p. 179). “Benjamin Spock told parents that if their child stole that he may need more approval at home or possibly a raise in his allowance” (p. 187). Colson again refuted, “If there is no concept of personal responsibility there is no reason to seek personal transformation” (p. 191). The overriding choices we are making now as a country, Colson says, “Eventually leads to moral anarchy and opens the door to tyranny” (p. 200).

The text effectively defined current worldviews in a concise and comprehensive manner while thoughtfully defending the corresponding Christian response. Colson used contemporary people and stories as illustrations that increased the insight of the reader. The stories of Dave and Katy, Ken McGarity, and Synanon were very effective in conveying the authors portrayal of the emptiness of man’s existence without God.

This was the last book I picked up to read, and although I appreciate Colson’s jail

ministry, I do not embrace his ecumenical slant. I was not surprised that by page 8 his ecumenicalism began to show, however, my respect for Chuck Colson grew chapter by chapter, and I found his text very interesting to read. His favorable tones toward Catholicism, priests, and gathering in Irish Pubs are certainly not what I would embrace, however I will still recommend this book to be read.