

## Christian Young People at Risk



It's **NOT** so much the problems of  
- declining **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**, or  
- decaying **CULTURE**, or  
- deficient **THEOLOGY**

**BUT rather it is the conflict between the beliefs in their head (good doctrine that they have been taught) and the actual core assumptions in their heart.**

Notice Paul did not cry out, “Who’s going to deliver me from bad public policy OR this culture of debauchery OR insufficient teaching?” Paul acknowledged that, “In my flesh (human nature) dwells no good thing.” The New Testament is written to the church—believers who are challenged to live the abundant and virtuous life—and it speaks about the privilege and provision of their salvation. While salvation is secure, Christians live a life at risk of not glorifying God—not being light in a dark world. Specifically, how do Christian young people develop so they make choices throughout their life that make their life “Christlike”? Toward being Christlike, how do they develop better in their relationships and careers?

Dr. Jeff Myers’ of SUMMIT Ministries explains in his recent book that “people who are Christians don’t **think** Christianly”—that Christians have “secret ideas” contradicting what they say they believe. This may not be surprising, but it emphasizes the gaps that exist between what people say they believe and what they actually believe. SUMMIT semester students have benefited from exploring their “secret ideas” with b4worldview.

Despite solid theological teaching, contradictions exist between what Christians openly believe “in their head” and the ideas that drive what they actually think, feel and do (hidden “in their heart”). It is not enough to ask, “Does God exist?” Conclusions depend on proper ideas about what “exist” means. Christians know God is good in their head, but bad ideas about “good” can be misleading about other ideas such as suffering. Most are taught Jesus is the Truth, but may be deceived about the way truth is determined. “Repent” is all about change, but do we understand what we are being asked to change? We hear Jesus’ promise, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” But, bad ideas about how the soul is satisfied can stand in the way of really living life abundantly. “Ideas matter, they really matter,” says John Stonestreet. Perhaps Christians often have bad ideas about good ideas.

### What is the risk of not acting?

Psychology has found two possibilities occur when people lack harmony between their “head knowledge” and “heart knowledge.” One: the stress of conflicting beliefs will ultimately breakdown the explicit belief system, as is the case when Christians abandon their faith during or after college. More common than abandonment is adaption: adjusting stated beliefs with what they really trust to be true. This often results in contaminated views of the Gospel (bad theology) that won’t hold up in life’s challenges. Another possibility is that the Christian will remain committed to their explicit beliefs without transforming their implicit assumptions. Conflict of thought remains and the Christian experiences frustration and guilt. In this case, the Christian is robbed of their joy and their testimony is compromised. Identifying and resolving dissonance requires a long term, healthy transformation. As parents and teachers work to reduce these risks for their students, the **b4worldview** course **complements** their efforts.

Windows of opportunity open all the time. The question is what we do with them?

**NO ACTION IS A DECISION!!**

**Less than 20% cost of a summer conference      Less than 1/3 cost of typical college course**

### **What is *b4worldview*?**

*b4worldview* is a highly interactive, online student engagement, which illuminates students' critical thinking. The course contains 10 sessions taking about 90 minutes each to complete. This resource assesses the student's personality and assumptions about life. This student specific information is used to coach him/her to a more lasting, personal ownership of Christian worldview. The course provides a methodology for creating and tracking internalized changes in beliefs accounting for the students' transformation. A review guide is provided for each session where the student and parent(s) can together explore relevant questions.

The strategic approach of *b4worldview* is to expose core assumptions central to consistently expressing a Christian identity versus assumptions built in to the human identity. Students become familiar with biblical stories and concepts whose interpretations are at risk to their human nature biases and cultural norms. Bible themes learned in traditional settings feed a tendency to outwardly think "as expected." "Biblical Psychology" is probing the soul (psuché) in ways that are aligned with, but not framed in explicit biblical or theological context. The soul is referenced over 100 times in the New Testament. Exploring ideas about the soul address contrasting beliefs about reality, truth, trust, satisfaction and justification.

Applying advanced technology and Socratic teaching techniques, *b4worldview* guides students individually along unique paths of discovery determined for each student as they answer a myriad of questions along the way. Core assumptions anchored in unmerited favor are presented to challenge the futility of a life based on cause and effect reciprocity and circumstances. Basically, students explore the identity dichotomy of "walking in the flesh" vs. "walking in the Spirit."

To register for *b4worldview* go online @ [www.b4worldview.com/homeschool/](http://www.b4worldview.com/homeschool/) . The cost for the course is \$99.95 (with a 50% off discount for early registration of homeschoolers), which includes access to the online course, membership in the *b4worldview* chat room, and a review resource (PDF) with questions and Biblical references for greater understanding and application of each session's topics. The course opens for early registration (with the 50% discount) in November 2017 for the semester starting in January 2018.

### **Dual credit option at Colorado Christian University**

Any student registered for *b4worldview* may also [optional] register for 2 hours of college credit at Colorado Christian University before completing the final assignment of the course. Upon registering with CCU the student pays to CCU a \$200 administrative fee that allows for transferring elective credit to most colleges and universities. (Also, an additional \$50 fee will need to be paid to *b4worldview* for the additional instructor time spent testing, assessment and reporting.) The course is listed in the CCU catalogue as:

**The Psychology of Identity Dissonance:** This course is an online personalized student engagement using critical thinking exercises aimed at the student's patterns of thought. Presented as a journey tailored uniquely for each student, students discover how their competing human and spiritual identities produce conflicting explicit and implicit belief systems. This dissonance or disharmony between "head" and "heart" affects how people really live. The student learns that three facets of identity - social, personal, natural – interact to establish self-concept. By exploring three life forms – body, soul, spirit – the student learns how competing identities affect priorities that influence the soul. The student learns about power and how the exercise of power relates to leadership and trust. The student investigates their own personality and how human nature guides judgment based on biases and filters. The student is challenged by alternative assumptions on reality, truth and needs satisfaction. The student gains perspective on "how do I know that I know." The course assesses the student's level of engagement, their identity profile, and how their profile changes throughout the course. This course serves as an excellent foundation for further studies in psychology, philosophy, sociology, theology, government, economics and business.