

Spiritual Lens 3: Secularism (October 6th)

(Adapted from podcast *This Cultural Moment*, Season 3, Episode 4: “The Secular Salvation Schema” by John Mark Comer and Mark Sayers)

Original Design	
Christian worldview	Secular worldview
Mankind was made in God’s image in the garden of Eden, walking in God’s presence, experiencing no shame (inherent goodness)	Your original design is your true self / your inner child with happiness before you were despoiled (inherent goodness)

The Fall	
Christian worldview	Secular worldview
The introduction of sin into God’s creation. Choosing self over God. Though created in God’s image, our nature has been distorted by sin. Our “bent” is away from God.	Trauma that damaged your true self. You are inherently good. Life, other people, cultural traditions, and religion have corrupted you.

Sin	
Christian worldview	Secular worldview
Living contrary to God’s design, anything that separates us from God’s presence and his design for holy living (inward and outward holiness)	Low self-esteem, unhappiness, anything that hinders pleasure, anything that makes you feel bad about yourself, anything difficult

Salvation and Redemption	
Christian worldview	Secular worldview
Jesus' life, death, and resurrection provide salvation through the forgiveness of our sins and adoption back into God's family. Salvation is past, present, and future.	Rediscovering your inner self / true identity. Centeredness and connectedness. Being at peace because "I know who I am."

Holiness	
Christian worldview	Secular worldview
Fleeing from the sin (old nature) that holds us to the unredeemed life, and clinging to God's ways and purposes for our life.	Fleeing from externally-given identities, binding commitments, difficult things, any restrictions on autonomy

Discipleship	
Christian worldview	Secular worldview
Obedience to Jesus and his vision for your life. Dying to self. Becoming more like Jesus.	Achievement culture - hitting metrics of outer self. Creating an outer self that reflects the true inner self. Self-expression.

Future Hope	
Christian worldview	Secular worldview
Heaven and new creation, God's way wins the day, all things are made right, death and sin are defeated	Pleasure and happiness in this life. Feeling good about yourself and at peace with who you are just the way you are.