**Framing**

The framing exercise, learning how to see others as God sees them, is the heartbeat of the biblical worldview. God has commanded us to love one another well...including our family, friends and yes, our “enemies”. From a human perspective that seems like an impossible task. However, when we know who we are from God’s perspective, we begin to understand that all things are possible. Loving those irregular people in our life, including ourselves, is not only possible but extremely important as we live out our life.

The idea behind framing is to see all persons the way God sees them; our starting point is realizing that we are all broken and in need of God’s love and grace. The amazing thing about God is that His love for us is unconditional. He loves all those He has created the same; He shows no favoritism. Scripture is very clear on how God feels toward those whom He created. Going outside of Scripture, trying to suppose how God might feel about someone, is not what this exercise of framing is all about. Interjecting your opinion, bias or delivering a short sermon is not what this exercise is about. To frame someone is to see them, and sometimes tell them how God says He sees them throughout Scripture.

As God looks at all those who love Him and those who hate Him and all those in between, He would say something like, *“I love you. I have loved you before the beginning of time. I put you together in your mother’s womb. You are fearfully and wonderfully made.*1 *You matter to Me. I made you different than all people that I have created through time. The iris of your eye, your thumb print and your DNA are unique to just you. I designed you in My image so that you can reason, be relational and be able to receive My love and love Me in return.*2 *When you believe that I loved you so much that I sacrificed My Son to die to pay the price for all your sins,*3 *then you will become My child*4 *and I will send myself, the Holy Spirit, to live in you forever*5*. This is not a little piece of Me, but all of Me. When you trust in Me, you will have access to all that you have been looking for in this world but have not yet found: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.*6 *Through Me, as you read My word in the Scriptures, you will learn more of who I am, who you are and what it is I require of you. As My child, I want you to be a light of hope and encouragement to a world that needs Me.*7 *I want you to love Me and to love others by loving and serving them and by being ready and willing to tell them about Me.*8 *Yes, I designed you with purpose to live life to the fullest extent and when you die, you will no longer experience suffering and death, but will live with me in heaven forever.*9*”*

Sometimes you might use framing to speak identity into a person who is struggling with a poor self image or with lies about themselves that are causing them difficulties in life and relationships. Sometimes, I will simply ask a person if they would like to know how God sees them. Other times I will see someone that is acting out toward me or others and I choose to frame them in my mind so that I can better love them in their brokenness. Whether you are speaking truth into a friend or to yourself about someone so that you can love them well, pray that the Holy Spirit speaks truth through you. Be careful not to frame a non believer as one who has accepted Christ. The framing for a Christian would be the same as above but for the phrases, “When you believe, when you trust in Me, as My child…will now be changed to “Because you believe, because you now trust in Me…” Your assignment is to frame yourself in the mirror. Yes, I know, it can be very difficult!

On the teacher website, under Lessons 1 and 2, a suggested script is written in the notes of the PowerPoint. With PPT open, click on View and then click on presenter notes. You can read off these notes from your PPT or you can copy them from the PPT and paste them on a Word or Pages document to prepare and teach your class. Note in Lesson 2 how Jesus might frame the other worldviews.

 Psalms 139:13-16

2 Genesis 1:26

3 John 3:16

4 1 John 3:2

5 Ephesians 1:13

6 Galatians 5:22-23

7 Matthew 5:14-16

8 Luke 10:27

9 John 3:16