

# 5

## Our Response

*...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ... – 2 Corinthians 10:5*

We clearly understand that the world view of our culture today is secular, indeed pagan and unbiblical. We have tried to define it in great detail. It affects all parts of our culture, including health care. What are we to do about this as Christians in the world, and specifically what are we to do in the realm of health care?

A missionary encounter with our culture must bring us face to face with the central citadel of our culture, which is the belief that is based on the immense achievements of the scientific method and, to a limited but increasing extent, embodied in our political, economic, and social practice – the belief that the real world, the reality in which we have to do, is a world that is to be understood in terms of efficient causes and not of final causes, a world that is not governed by intelligible purpose, and thus a world in which the answer to the question of what is good has to be left to the private opinion of each individual and cannot be included in the body of accepted facts that control public life. (Newbigin, p. 79)

If we are going to face this pagan world view head on, we had better be prepared. Not only must we understand the pagan world view, but we ourselves must have a fully developed and integrated Biblical world view. That is our next task.

In order to develop a Biblical world view of medicine and health care, you must put aside all that you have ever learned about disease, illness, health, healing, and health care from the perspective of the scientific cause-and-effect world view for now. Forget even the germ theory of disease (for that is all it really is, a theory). Let us explore together what God says about health care.

*Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-make you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed. Thus you will prove in practice that the will of God is good, acceptable to him and perfect. Romans 12:2 Phillips*

*Be careful that nobody spoils your faith through intellectualism or high-sounding nonsense. Such stuff is at best founded on men's ideas of the nature of the world and disregards Christ! Yet it is in Him that God gives a full and complete expression of Himself in bodily form. Moreover, your own completeness is realised in Him, who is the ruler over all authorities, and the supreme head over all powers. Colossians 2:8-10 Phillips*