

At the March board meeting for The Matzevah Foundation, Steven shared what he's learned regarding world view. Our world view consists of the core values or beliefs that shape who we are, the things we do and say, and the ways we behave towards others.

Most anyone would agree that all people aren't the same. When we look at world views, however, we find that most people with the same world view will share a lot of similarities. Why is this important? In a word, it's important for communication. In order to communicate well with others, first I need to understand my own world view and be able to articulate my beliefs. Having that understanding allows me to avoid acting and/or speaking in ways that can be misleading or misunderstood by someone with a different world view. Being able to articulate my own beliefs and how they shape my behavior helps me not only share what I believe, but also helps me seek out the same information from others in a way that places us on a level playing field rather than putting people in a position where they have to defend their beliefs. Being able to dialogue in this way, helps me learn about other world views and understanding other world views helps me gain better understanding of people.

Without an understanding of world views, it's easy to slip into the subconscious thought pattern that there are only two kinds of people; those like me (right) and those not like me (wrong). Those beliefs will be communicated to those you speak with even though you don't say the words. When people receive that message, successful communication becomes unlikely. Those unlike you, will have already received the only message they're going to take away.

The work we do with TMF is international in scope and the stage we're presented with keeps expanding. Interacting with people on the world's stage increases the world views we come in contact with. It's important for us to be aware of this so that we can maintain open dialogue with all the various people and entities we interact with. Oftentimes we serve as a bridge between several entities. In these situations, clear and open communication is critical to successful outcomes. When all voices are heard, regardless of world view, then solutions can be found and reconciliation can happen. That's the outcome we strive for.