

Developing a Christian Worldview

Scott Chafee
King's Grant Baptist Church
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Foundation of Worldview



Definitions

- Modalism – denial of Trinity, God revealed Himself in three modes or forms. It denies three in one at the same time.
- Apollinarianism – while Jesus was a man, He did not have a human mind, but it was solely divine. It denies the true and complete humanity of Jesus.
- Nestorianism – Jesus is two distinct persons. He said Mary was not the “mother of God” but the “Mother of Christ” in respect to His humanity. This threatens the atonement in that if He was strictly human the sacrifice was not of divine quality.

Definitions

- Transcendence - referring to the relation of God to creation. God is "other," "different" from His creation. He is beyond His creation and not limited by it or to it.
- Kalam – the Islamic philosophy of seeking Islamic theological principles through dialectic (dialogue); Cosmological Argument for the existence of God.
- Arianism – Only the Father was eternal and too pure & infinite to appear on the earth. Christ was the Father's first creation, relationship is adoptive. Advocates idolatry, worshipping a created being.

Definitions

- Kenosis – To empty, Jesus gave up some divine attributes in the incarnation. (Philippians 2).
- Hypostatic Union – God in the flesh, divine and human natures, the God-Man.
- Open Theology – If God knows how we will choose, is that true free will? So God limits His knowledge and is omniscient only in that which is knowable; the future is not knowable since it has not yet happened.
- Ontological – Trinity issues, with who God is, more than what God does (economic Trinity).

Foundation of Worldview

"The doctrine of God is the central point for much of the rest of theology. One's view of God might even be thought of as supplying the whole framework within which one's theology is constructed, life is lived, and ministry is conducted."

—Millard Erickson

Millard Erickson, Christian Theology (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2001), 381

Foundation of Worldview

- For at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.
- He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen.

--1 Timothy 6:15-16

What is Worldview?



Worldview Questions

- Metaphysical.
- Theological.
- Epistemological.
- Ethical.
- Anthropological.

Worldview Questions

- Metaphysical.
 - Why is there something rather than nothing?
 - Is the universe finite or infinite?
 - What is the relationship between mind & matter?
- Theological
 - Is there a God?
 - Who or what is God?
 - What is His relationship to the universe?

Worldview Questions

- Epistemological.
 - What is truth?
 - Can truth be known?
 - How is knowledge attained?
- Ethical.
 - Are there moral laws?
 - What is the basis for moral laws?
 - Do moral laws apply to all people?

Worldview Questions

- Anthropological.
 - What is man?
 - Are human actions free or determined?
 - Is man essentially good, evil or neutral?
 - What happens after death?

Seven Basic Theological Worldviews

- Theism
- Deism
- Pantheism
- Panenthism
- Polytheism
- Pluralism
- Naturalism

Theism

- A theistic worldview that believes an eternal God freely created all of existence (time, space, matter, celestial realms and bodies) out of nothing (*ex nihilo*) and that He continues to act within the creation in varying degrees.
- **Adherents:** Judaism, Christianity, Islam.

Theism



Theism

- **Metaphysical.**
- **Theological.**
- **Epistemological.**
- **Ethical.**
- **Anthropological.**

Theism

- **Metaphysical:** There is something, and an infinite Creator is responsible for creating all that there is. He is completely separate from creation and created it out of His own good pleasure, not out of necessity.
- **Theological:** God is the Creator of the universe, and He exists beyond it and He acts within it.
- **Epistemological:** Truth is absolute, has its ground in God, and is acquired primarily through general and special revelation.
- **Ethical:** Moral laws do exist and apply to all people of all times, having their basis in God.
- **Anthropological:** Man is a special creation of God, free to choose his path and destiny, born into sin but free to choose to do good, where he lives forever in one of two eternal destinies.

Deism

- A theistic worldview that believes God created the universe but has not been involved in it since.
- Miracles are therefore not possible.
- **Adherents:** Voltaire, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Theistic Evolutionists (though not all).

Deism



Deism

- **Metaphysical.**
- **Theological.**
- **Epistemological.**
- **Ethical.**
- **Anthropological.**

Deism

- **Metaphysical:** There is something, and an infinite Creator is responsible for creating all that there is.
- **Theological:** God is the creator of the universe, and He exists beyond it *but* does not concern himself with it any longer.
- **Epistemological:** Truth is absolute, has its ground in God, and is acquired primarily through general revelation.
- **Ethical:** Moral laws do exist and apply to all people of all times, having their basis in nature.
- **Anthropological:** Man is created neutral, neither good nor evil, and gains dignity through his actions.

Pantheism

- **Lit. *pan* "all" *theism* "god."** A Theistic worldview that believes God is identical with the universe.
- **Adherents:** Hindus, Zen Buddhists, Christian Scientists, Spinoza.

Pantheism



Pantheism

- **Metaphysical.**
- **Theological.**
- **Epistemological.**
- **Ethical.**
- **Anthropological.**

Pantheism

- **Metaphysical:** All is an illusion except the oneness of the Real (God).
- **Theological:** All is God and God is all. God is impersonal and immanent, being in no sense transcendent.
- **Epistemological:** The only truth is that which is found in the Real and beyond our understanding. Sense, experience and reason are misleading because they are based on illusions.
- **Ethical:** Moral laws are part of the illusion of this life and have no basis in the Real. In God, there is neither good nor evil.
- **Anthropological:** Man is part of the Real. Self-realization will help one work off bad karma through a process of reincarnation until he unites with the Real in Nirvana, thereby losing any sense of individuality.

Panentheism

- Lit. *pan* "all" *en* "in" *theism* "god." A theistic worldview that believes the universe is a part of who God is, but is not all that God is.
- **Adherents:** Charles Hartshorne, Alfred North Whitehead, Process Theologians, Open Theists (to a certain degree) .

Panentheism



Panentheism

- **Metaphysical.**
- **Theological.**
- **Epistemological.**
- **Ethical.**
- **Anthropological.**

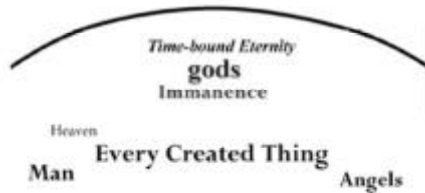
Panentheism

- **Metaphysical:** There is something, and this something, the universe, is a part of God and, therefore, necessarily exists.
- **Theological:** God is finite and is undergoing change and development along with the universe. The universe is in God, although God is more than the universe.
- **Epistemological:** Truth is developing and is acquired primarily through nature.
- **Ethical:** Moral laws do not exist, since morals are changing as God is changing.
- **Anthropological.**

Polytheism

- Lit. *poly* "many" *theism* "god." A theistic worldview that believes there are many gods.
- **Adherents:** Ancient religions, Hinduism, Zen Buddhists, Mormons.

Polytheism



Polytheism

- **Metaphysical.**
- **Theological.**
- **Epistemological.**
- **Ethical.**
- **Anthropological.**

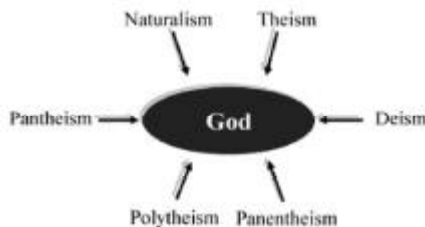
Polytheism

- **Metaphysical:** There is something, and it has been for all eternity.
- **Theological:** There are many finite gods that are immanent within the universe and are not transcendent above it.
- **Epistemological:** Truth is acquired through revelation of the deities, and, therefore, it is relative.
- **Ethical:** Absolute moral laws do not exist, since they are determined by the individual gods.
- **Anthropological:** Man is here for the pleasure of the gods and will attain to an afterlife based upon the amount of pleasure he brings to the gods.

Pluralism

- A worldview that believes all beliefs are ultimately true, even if they are contradictory.
- **Adherents:** Postmoderns, liberals, all religions that have adopted a postmodern epistemology, New Age philosophies.

Pluralism



Pluralism

- **Metaphysical.**
- **Theological.**
- **Epistemological.**
- **Ethical.**
- **Anthropological.**

Pluralism

- **Metaphysical:** All previous views are correct based on the relative nature of truth.
- **Theological:** All views of God are true and describe who He is.
- **Epistemological:** Truth is relative. There is no absolute truth and, therefore, no absolute knowledge of truth.
- **Ethical:** Absolute moral laws do not exist, since there is no absolute truth. All moral laws are correct for the individual (subjectivism) or culture (relativism).
- **Anthropological:** All previous views are correct based upon the relative nature of truth.

Naturalism

- An atheistic worldview that believes nature is the sum total of all reality.
- **Adherents:** Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Bertrand Russell.

Naturalism



Naturalism

- **Metaphysical.**
- **Theological.**
- **Epistemological.**
- **Ethical.**
- **Anthropological.**

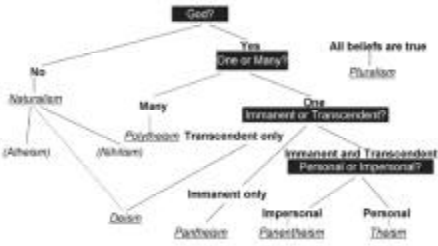
Naturalism

- **Metaphysical:** There is something, and it has eternally existed, always obeying the laws of nature.
- **Theological:** There is no God.
- **Epistemological:** Some truth is objective, namely that which is found in the eternal laws of nature.
- **Ethical:** Moral laws do not exist, since this would require a Moral law-giver.
- **Anthropological:** Man is a meaningless result of chance, brought about by cause and effect.

Naturalism



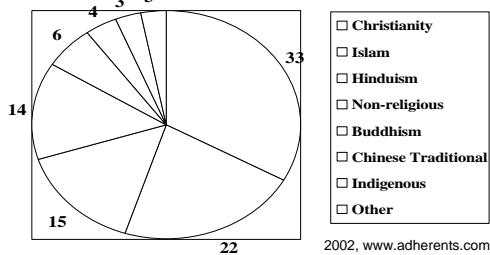
Worldview Chart



Worldview Comparison

	Deism	Deism	Deism	Transcendentalism	Immanentism	Pantheism	Naturalism
Beliefs	There is only one God or deity.	There are many gods, each with a specific domain.	All gods are dead or dormant.	There is one God, but He is not all-powerful.	There are many gods, but they are all part of a single, unified God.	There are many gods, but they are all part of a single, unified God.	There are no gods.
Theology	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.
Epistemology	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.
Ethics	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.
Anthropology	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is revelation through the gods.	There is no revelation.

Religion Around the World



Other Worldviews Worth Noting

- Finite Godism
- Atheism
 - Secular Humanism.
 - Free Thinkers.
 - "We're good people; we're just not God people."

Finite Godism

- Like the Christian God, but not perfect.
- God is limited in His power and His nature.
- **Adherents:** from Plato to Rabbi Kushner (Why Bad Things Happen to Good People), not adopted by any particular religion.

Finite Godism

- God is transcendent and created the world.
- God is not powerful to act in the world.
- God created the world from preexisting matter or from nothing, but the design is not perfect; having chaos built in to it.
- God and the problem of evil...

Finite Godism

- "If God is omnipotent, and therefore the creator of so much evil, how can He be good? Or if He is good, and did not intend evil, how can He be omnipotent in the sense defined? Must there not be something beyond the control of His good will which is the source of evil in the world?"

– Peter Bertocci, *Introduction to Philosophy of religion*, p. 398

Atheism – Secular Humanism

- Perhaps 5% of Americans claim Atheism.
 - Yet their influence is much greater.
 - Universe is self-existing, not created.
 - Man is part of the universe, emergent process.
 - No purpose, with no need for salvation.
 - Ethics are autonomous and situational.
 - Right to die, euthanasia, abortion, suicide.

Atheism – Secular Humanism

- **Distinctiveness:**
 - Skeptic: doubts God exists.
 - Agnostic: one can't know if God exists.
 - Atheist: claims that God does not exist.
- **Other Atheistic ideas.**
 - God once existed, but died in Jesus Christ.
 - Since we can't know anything about Him, He might as well not exist.

Atheism – Secular Humanism

- **Much similarity to Naturalism.**
 - Universe always existed, eternal, not created.
 - Out of nothing by nothing, without cause.
 - They deny God but affirm evil in the world, a primary evidence that God does not exist.
 - Absurdity to believe in God since God made all things, evil is a thing, God made evil.
 - Since man is a collection of chemicals, there is no value in life, no standard of morality.

How Are We to Respond?

- **Theism:** if the universe was created by an uncaused first cause, then what would this God look like?
 - Powerful
 - Intelligent
 - Moral
 - Necessary
 - Unique

How Are We to Respond?

- **Deism:** this is inconsistent on its most basic premise, they believe in the biggest miracle of all, but not that God is involved.
- If God can make something out of nothing, could he not easily perform miracles like turning water into wine, or the resurrection?

How Are We to Respond?

- **Pantheism:** the basic claim of pantheism is self-defeating, that “reason can tell us nothing about God.” Is this true or false?
- It appears to be reasonable, except that statement just gave us information about God. (it told us we can’t use reason, but we have to use reason to deny the use of reason).

How Are We to Respond?

- **Pantheism:** the basic claim of pantheism is self-defeating, that “God is one absolute unchanging reality.” Is this true or false?
- Man’s problem is that he does not realize he is God. As we come to realize this, we change. But if God is unchanging...
- Therefore anyone who comes to realize that he is God, isn’t; because he changed.

How Are We to Respond?

- **Pantheism:** the basic claim of pantheism is self-defeating, that “there is a lack of moral concern.” Is this true or false?
- No guide to actions other than *karma*. To help a lower caste person would be working against God, and karma.
- Relieving karmic debt requires one to ignore all suffering rather than alleviate it.

How Are We to Respond?

- **Penentheism:** the basic claim of panentheism is self-defeating, that “the world is God’s body, constantly changing.” Is this true or false?
- Which came first? It would take a transcendent God to create the chicken who would lay eggs.
- It would take an unchanging standard by which to measure change.

How Are We to Respond?

- **Polytheism:** the basic claim of polytheism is self-defeating, that “gods are not eternal but come from nature.”
- Why worship something that is not of ultimate value?
- Man imposes human imperfections onto the gods in the system, again lowering his worthiness of worship.

How Are We to Respond?

- **Pluralism:** the basic claim of pluralism is self-defeating, that “all religions are true” and “truth is what you believe to be true.”
- All religions can be false, but all religions cannot be true.
- Absolute truth will be discussed at a later time.

How Are We to Respond?

- **Finite Godism:** while it asks a good question, the basic claim of finite Godism is self-defeating, that “God is not all-powerful.” Is this true or false?
- Like any other finite thing, a finite god would need a cause.
- Again, an imperfect, created god would not be worthy of worship.

How Are We to Respond?

- **Atheism:** there are several rational and logical arguments for the existence of God.
- These will be discussed on another day.

Four Worldview Tests

- Test of Reason.
- Test of Outer Experience.
- Test of Inner Experience.
- Test of Practice.

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- Theism
- Deism
- Pantheism
- Panenthism
- Polytheism
- Pluralism
- Naturalism

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- **Theism:** Yes. It is rational and does not fail in any area of logical consistency. To say that an eternal God is the creator of all things created, but yet He, Himself, is uncreated, does not violate the law of causality i.e., all effects have a cause, since God is not an effect.

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- **Deism:** Yes. There is no logical contradiction in saying that God is not involved in the universe anymore. He very well could have created the universe and then walked away.

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- **Pantheism:** No. Since God and the universe are one, and the universe cannot be eternal, God cannot be eternal and, therefore, would not be God.

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- **Panentheism:** No. God cannot be both infinite and finite or necessary and contingent at the same time and in the same relationship. As well, since God cannot exist without the universe, and the universe cannot be eternal (since it is a logical absurdity to have an uncreated universe), God could not be eternal. If God is not eternal, something must have created God, and that eternal something then would in turn have to be God.

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- **Polytheism:** Yes and No.
 - Yes, if your view of polytheism is that there are many *celestial spirits* that people worship. People do worship demons and angels and other actual personages.
 - No, if you believe that there are many *actual gods*. Since the very definition of God is that He is the greatest necessary being, and this view would state that there are many gods i.e., necessary beings, it rationally absurd. There can only be one necessary being, since He exists of Himself and by definition is the first cause.

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- **Pluralism:** No. Something cannot be true (e.g., there is only one God) and false (e.g., there is not only one God) at the same time and in the same relationship. Pluralism is also self-defeating in that it purports that all religions are true. Take for example the statement that "Christianity is true." According to pluralism, this is a correct statement. Now take the statement, "Pluralism is false." This is also true according to pluralism. Therefore pluralism is self-defeating. It is logically absurd to be a pluralist.

Test of Reason: Is It Logical?

- **Naturalism:** Naturalism only has two options and both are not reasonable: 1) the universe has no beginning and 2) the universe is self-created. The first option is absurd because it is a logical contradiction to have an endless series of effects without a cause. The second option is absurd because is not possible for something to create itself as it would have to predate itself in order to create itself.

Test of Outer Experience

- **Theism:** Yes. History clearly attests to the interventions of a personal and immanent God (e.g., the resurrection of Christ). General revelation also speaks of God's continued intervention (Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1-4).

Test of Outer Experience

- **Deism:** No. History clearly attests to the interventions of a personal and immanent God (e.g., the resurrection of Christ). Ongoing creation and human experience also attest to God's continued intervention.

Test of Outer Experience

- **Pantheism:** No. There is nothing in human history or experience that would suggest that God and the universe are one and the same. As well, if we are a part of God, it seems illogical that people would continue to be born. Reincarnation does not answer this, since the population of all living creatures continually grows.

Test of Outer Experience

- **Panentheism:** No. There is nothing in human history or experience that would suggest that the universe is a necessary part of God upon which He is contingent. As well, if we are a part of God, it seems illogical that people would continue to be born. Reincarnation does not answer this, since the population of all living creatures continually grows.

Test of Outer Experience

- **Polytheism:** No. There is nothing in human history or experience that would suggest that there are many gods who are ruling in the universe.

Test of Outer Experience

- **Pluralism:** No. It is contrary to our experience to state that there are contradictory truths that are true at the same time. This is the reason we stop at a stop sign, go to the doctor when we get sick, and go to sleep when we get tired.

Test of Inner Experience

- **Theism:** Yes. Calvin called our understanding of God as the *sensus divinitatis* ("sense of the divine"). We all have an innate understanding of God (Rom. 1:20; 2:14–15). This is why 95 percent of the world has always been theistic. We all exhibit attributes of God through our reasoning capabilities, morality, and sense of what is right or wrong.

Test of Inner Experience

- **Deism:** Yes and no.
 - Being subjective, some would believe that inner experience proves that there is no personal God, since they do not experience any verifiable contact with the Creator.
 - Others would state just the opposite, that they have felt the presence of God's continuing activity in many ways.

Test of Inner Experience

- **Pantheism and Panentheism:** No. Even though we display characteristics of God, inner experience does not suggest that we are God. As one writer puts it, "The primary thing that people are conscious of is that they exist and that they are not God."

Test of Inner Experience

- **Polytheism:** No. Inner experience would suggest that there is one *definite* unchanging Creator who is evidenced by our *definite* understanding of right and wrong.

Test of Inner Experience

- **Pluralism:** No. Inner experience tells us that something cannot be true (e.g., there is only one God) and false (e.g., there is not only one God) at the same time and in the same relationship.

Test of Inner Experience

- **Naturalism:** No. Ninety-five percent of the world has always been theistic because we all exhibit attributes of God through our reasoning capabilities, morality, and sense of what is right or wrong.

Test of Practice: Does it Work?

- **Theism:** Yes. All people live according to a theistic worldview whether they admit it or not. In other words, people do live as if a God who is personal and transcendent, since they live according to a certain standard of beliefs in right or wrong. All people, at least in some sense, live as if they are going to be held accountable for what they do, even if they profess that they do not believe this is the case. This is precisely the argument that Reformed or presuppositional apologists make. Nihilism is unlivable.

Test of Practice: Does it Work?

- **Deism:** No. In general, deists do not live as if God is uninvolved in their lives. They live as if His requirements are actively present and binding in their *everyday* lives.

Test of Practice: Does it Work?

- **Pantheism:** No. Pantheists do not live as if they are caught up in a perpetual cycle of reincarnation. If they did, they would be living according to a standard of improvement. As well, pantheists do not consistently live as if there is no ultimate good or evil, since they live according to some set of morals.

Test of Practice: Does it Work?

- **Panentheism:** No. Panentheists do not live as if they are heading toward an eternity as merely a memory in the mind of God. They live as if what they do really matters for something greater.

Test of Practice: Does it Work?

- **Polytheism:** No. Polytheists do not consistently live as if there is no *ultimate* Creator, since they live according to a certain set of moral values and expect others to do the same. If they lived according to their polytheistic world view, they would have no basis for a set standard of right or wrong. It all depends on the god whom you serve.

Test of Practice: Does it Work?

- **Pluralism:** No. Pluralists believe in a universal right and wrong. First and foremost, they believe that pluralism is right and exclusivism is wrong. It is impossible to be a consistent pluralist. People do not live according to the relativistic worldview that pluralism demands since it is unlivable. This can be demonstrated by the fact that all people would believe that there are certain things that are universally wrong (e.g., torturing babies for fun is universally morally wrong).

Test of Practice: Does it Work?

- **Naturalism:** No. Naturalists live their lives according to a certain set of moral values that can only be explained by a Moral law-giver.

Where Are We Going?

- Where Did I Come From?
- What is Man?
- Why Am I Here?
- What Has Affected Our Worldview?
- Testing Worldviews: How Do I Know?
- Why Do I Need a Proper Worldview?
- Marks of a Proper Worldview.

Where Are We Going?

- Developing a View of Heaven & Hell.
- Developing a View of Absolute Truth.
- Developing a View of World Religions.

Developing a Christian Worldview

- Introduction – 1 Peter 3:14-16
 - Where did I come from?
 - Why am I here?
 - What happens when I die?
 - It's how you view the world: but why should my worldview be shaped differently than a non-Christian?

Developing a Christian Worldview

- Introduction – 1 Peter 3:14-16
 - Effective witnesses – 3:15 – we must speak with up to date information backed by personal experience. Discipleship equips believers to be effective in the marketplace.
 - Moral consciousness – 3:16 – Greek literally is “good conscience.”
 - Moral consciousness is not always pure (1 Tim 4:2)
 - Enemies will be ashamed when they see our good behavior in the face of slander.

Developing a Christian Worldview

- What is a worldview?
 - The big picture of our lives.
 - A life system.
 - The basis for all judgments we make.

Developing a Christian Worldview

- Why do I need a worldview?
 - A worldview is how we view life and make decisions.
 - It is a set of presuppositions.
 - It is how we make sense of the world.
 - It is how we perceive the world.

Developing a Christian Worldview

- Why do I need a worldview?
 - A worldview determines how we view Scripture and truth – 1 Peter 3:15.
 - What does it mean to be apologetic?
 - What does it mean to be apologetic biblically? *Apologia* means "to defend or give an answer."
 - Acts 17:16-34 – Paul answers with logical reasoning.
 - Chuck Colson – "Christians must be ready to separate genuine science from philosophy. Evolution, as presented in textbooks and museums, confuses the two, presenting as science what is actually naturalistic philosophy."

Developing a Christian Worldview

- Now what?
 - Where did I come from?
 - Why am I here?
 - What is my image of God?
 - Can I know anything for certain?
- Making a difference.
 - What do you believe has to happen in order for your worldview to make a godly difference?
 - How will a godly worldview differ between a secular worldview?

Where Did I Come From?

- Intro
 - Consider this: "The issue of the origin of life is critical for all worldviews – creation and evolution." – Ken Hemphill
 - Why is it so important?
 - Because of one's feeling of worth.
 - Because of our relation with one another.
 - Because of our ethical and moral decisions.
 - Because of its impact of society and culture.
 - Another thought: "Karl Marx viewed man primarily as an economic being to be interpreted through the perspective of dialectical materialism, with no metaphysical basis for life." – Daniel Vestal

Three Options for Existence

- We are self-caused (Evolution).
 - We originated out of nothing (Nothing + Time = Life).
 - We hold no true significance concerning our value in life.
 - Evolution defined: "...the idea that particles turned into people over time, without any need for an intelligent designer." – Jonathan Sarfati, Answers in Genesis.

Three Options for Existence

- We are caused by chance (the Big Bang Theory), which means...
 - There is no intelligent designer.
 - There is no objective moral standard: postmodernism claims there is no right or wrong for anyone.
 - "Intelligent design infers that we are designed by an intelligent agent, which holds all the properties of a designer." – William A. Dempski.
 - If nature is all there is, then there is no supreme source of truth or morality." – Chuck Colson.

Three Options for Existence

- We are caused by chance (the Big bang Theory), which means...
 - There is no concept of truth.
 - "Post-modernism teaches that truth is relative, and we are left to determine morality on our own." – Chuck Colson.
 - We can only know truth by knowing the truth of God." Josh McDowell.

Three Options for Existence

- We are caused by another (Creation) – Creationism is the only view that gives God His rightful place in the origin of man and the universe.
 - Our universe has an eternal Being as creator (Genesis 1:1, Ps 19:1-6)
 - We are created beings (Genesis 1:27, 2:4-8).
 - We have purpose in life (Ps 139:13-16, Jeremiah 29:11)

Three Options for Existence

- a. "The most devastating thing that biology did to Christianity was the discovery of biological evolution. Now that we know Adam and Eve were never real people, the central myth of Christianity is destroyed. If there was never an Adam and Eve, there never was original sin. If there was no original sin, there is no need of salvation. If there was no need for salvation, there is no need of a savior. And I submit that put Jesus, historical or otherwise, into the ranks of the unemployed. I think that evolution is absolutely the death knell of Christianity." – Frank Zindler, atheist.

What Is Man?

- Introduction
 - Psalm 8:4 is the question that has echoed throughout the ages.
 - "Man, like every other animal, was descended from fishes. He must be derived from animals of a different sort, because owing to his long infancy, he could not have survived, originally as he is now." – Bertrand Russell, agnostic.

The World's View of Man

- Man as machine: "The conception of man as machine values people for what they can do, not for what can be done for them. – Millard Erickson. Simply for productivity, with no moral or relational value.
- Man as economic being: This leaves us with two assumptions that are not true.
 - Our destiny is determined by economic resources.
 - Our value is based upon our worth or job.
 - In both issues: where is Jesus?

The World's View of Man

- Man as social being: man's worth is based on the groups with which he interacts.
 - What are some popular groups of which to be a part?
 - Describe your friends who have based their worth on being a part of these groups.

The World's View of Man

- Man as animal: mankind is basically an animal that made it to higher status.
 - Pavlov's dog's salivated at the bell.
 - Humans can be conditioned to react in certain ways, through positive reinforcement.
- Man as pawn in the universe: man is at the mercy of other forces of which we have no control.

The Christian's View of Man

- Man was created by God (Genesis 2:7-8). What does that mean?
 - Man has a purpose.
 - Man is designed.
- Man was created for God: Why?
 - For His glory – Isaiah 43:7
 - Do it all for the glory of God – 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). *Imago Dei*
 - Man is like God
 - Man represents God.

Theological Meaning of Creation

- Humans have no independent existence: coming into existence by God's will; and are not of ultimate value (created by One who has it).
- Humans are a part of creation: although different from creation, we have a relationship with it.

Theological Meaning of Creation

- Humanity has a unique place in creation: animals produce after their kind while humans were created in the image of God; with dominion over creation.
- Humanity has a common bond: linked by a sinful nature.

Theological Meaning of Creation

- Humanity has limitations: we are finite, incomplete and subject to error.
- Limitation is not inherently bad: God looked at man and said, "very good" and we accept our limitations and live accordingly.
- Humanity is something wonderful: not here by chance, or in process.

Created in the Image of God?

- Substantive View: we have characteristics of the divine (physical, psychological or spiritual)
 - Gen 1:26 (*selem* = form) "look like us."
 - *Homo Sapiens* are a thinking being.

Created in the Image of God?

- Relational View: primarily Karl Barth and Emil Brunner (the gist in point 3).
 - Understood through the incarnation.
 - Our understanding through divine revelation.
 - Not a possession but a relationship with God.
 - Paralleled in relationships in society.
 - Universal, in all humans in all times.
 - No solution as to why we have this relationship.

Created in the Image of God?

- Functional View: not something humans experience but what they do.
 - Exercise dominion over creation.
 - Genesis 1:26-27
 - Psalm 8:5-6

Conclusions: the Image of God

- It is universal in the human race.
- It has not been lost due to sin.
- It is not more present in one person over another (male/female, black/white, clergy/laity).
- It is more something we *are* rather than something we *have* or *do*.

Implications: the Image of God

- We belong to God.
- We should pattern ourselves after Jesus.
- We experience full humanity only when we are properly related to God.
- There is goodness in learning and work.
- Humans are valuable.
- This image is universal in mankind.

What is Man? World's Answer

- Eat, drink and be merry.
 - The purpose of pleasure, not what is right or wrong.
 - The purpose of power, achieving more fulfills destiny.
 - The purpose of possessions, consumerism validates my existence.

What is Man? World's Answer

- My goal is to perfect me.
 - I'm the center of the universe, so improve self, improve the universe.
 - Is there a danger in the self-help movement today?
- We are the world.
 - Contribute to the good of the world, which validates my existence.
 - Not real answers to understanding the meaning of life.

What is Man? Bible's Answer

- The biblical answer to why we exist.
 - Man's purpose is to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 2:12). How is this possible?
 - Man's purpose is to worship God (John 4:23-24, Ps 95:1-7). How can you become a better worshipper?
 - Man's purpose is to be in relationship with God (2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16) If it's God's will that no one perish, does this mean we all go to heaven?

Making a Difference

- What is keeping you from completely honoring God?
- How will you make up your mind to completely honor Him?
- What will it take to ensure your commitment?

What Has Affected Our Worldview?

- Introduction
 - Quotes:
 - "There is no such thing as absolute truth, people may define truth in contradictory ways and still be correct."
 - "Everything in life is negotiable."
 - "Nothing can be for certain except the things you experience in your life."
 - "When it comes to matters of morals and ethics, truth means different things to different people; no one can be sure they have the truth."

What Has Affected Our Worldview?

- Introduction
 - Questions:
 - Have you ever thought about why we need a study on worldview in the first place?
 - Why is it that so many people have so many different views of the world?

The Language of Rebellion

- Transgression – Ephesians 2:1
- Unrighteousness – Romans 3:5
- Lawlessness – 1 John 3:4
- Rebellion – 1 Kings 12:19
- Godlessness – Romans 1:18
- Wickedness – Romans 1:18
- Evil – Matthew 7:11

What is Sin?

- Sin is missing the mark.
 - When was the last time you missed the mark in your spiritual life?
 - When we take our eyes off the target, it becomes easy to miss the mark!
- Sin is breaking God's law (1 John 3:4)
 - Breaking one makes us a sinner.
 - Since we are slaves to sin, we are in need of salvation.
- Sin is something of which we are all guilty (1 John 1:8)

Why Sin Matters

- It matters to God because
 - It saddens Him
 - It brings consequences to His children
 - It separates us from Him
- It matters to us because
 - We are accountable for our actions
 - It bring consequences
 - It separates us from God

Why Sin Matters

- It's not just a theological concept, but a relational one.
- Sin ultimately breaks our relationship with God.

From Where Did Sin Come?

- God had only one rule – Genesis 2:16
- Believe the snake means doubting God.
 - Lie 1 – God is placing an unreasonable restriction on you (can't eat from one tree).
 - Lie 2 – The restriction is bad because you are better off without it (become like God).
 - Lie 3 – Therefore God's rule is bad (He's restricting your knowledge).
 - Lie 4 – You'll be better off if you ignore the restriction (eat the fruit, you won't die).

From Where Did Sin Come?

- God created mankind with the freedom to choose.
- Their action brought a virus that has infected all of us.
 - Physical death – Romans 5:12-14
 - Spiritual death – Ephesians 2:12, Romans 3:23.

Fallout From the Fall

- Both Adam and Eve
 - Physical and spiritual death – 2:17
 - Eviction from the garden – 3:23
- Eve and women
 - Pain in childbirth – 3:16
 - Submission to men – 3:16

Fallout From the Fall

- Adam and men
 - Painful toil in farming – 3:17-19
- Serpent
 - On his belly, eating dust – 3:14
- Satan – 3:15
 - Injure her offspring.
 - Offspring would crush the enemy.

Fallout From the Fall

- What it means for you and me.
 - We inherit a sin nature – Psalm 51:5
 - We carry a sin debt – Romans 5:12
- Contrast Adam and Christ
 - Death or life – 1 Corinthians 15:2
 - Romans 5:19

The Evil We Do

- It's not all on Adam and Eve...
 - Sinful acts we do – commission
 - Sinful failures to act – omission, James 4:17
 - Sinful thoughts – Jesus in Matthew 5:27-28
- Diagnosis
 - It's everywhere – Romans 3:23
 - Affecting everyone – Titus 1:15, Romans 1:32, Genesis 6:5, Colossians 3:5
 - Making us blind to God – 1 Cor 2:14, 2 Cor 4:4

In My Own Defense

- Well, nobody's perfect – Habakkuk 1:13
- But I'm better than a lot of other people – sin is like one strike and you're out.
- What about my good deeds, they count for something – Romans 8:7, Jeremiah 17:9

What Has Affected Our Worldview?

- We must accept that God has not sinned (James 1:13-15).
 - What happens before someone sins?
 - Is being tempted a sin?
- We must accept that God cannot be blamed for sin (Romans 5:12).
 - How did sin enter the world?
 - Was Adam and Eve's decision to sin their own or someone else's?

What Has Affected Our Worldview?

- We must accept that outside of God's truth, we cannot have an accurate view of the world.
 - The world is tainted by prejudice, bias and sin.
 - The only correct view is God's view.

Testing Worldviews

- Introduction – Proverbs 9:9-10 – are any of these familiar?
 - There is no sin because there is no set standard.
 - You may live life differently than I do and make decisions I cannot support, but I cannot say that you are sinning.
 - Just because something is sin for you does not mean it is sin for me.
 - It really does not matter which road we choose; we are all serving the same God.
 - What is the format for understanding the proper worldview? Which is true between naturalism and theism?

Testing Worldviews

- The consistency test.
 - The first mark of a true worldview is truthfulness; does it remain consistent within itself?
 - Naturalism reduces reason to a process that has survived genetically through mutations, and has no basis for recognizing reason's worth, which leads rationalism to meaningless because it is not consistently rational.

Testing Worldviews

- The empirical adequacy test.
 - We must always ask if this worldview deals with facts truthfully and completely. How do we determine the answer?
 - It must distinguish between fact and theory. So, are there facts being denied in order to defend a certain worldview?
 - Evolution is a theory because it denies certain facts, whereas a Christian worldview has integrity because it deals adequately with scientific facts.

Explanatory Power

- The power given to those things that a worldview claims to explain; satisfactory answers to demanding questions.
Questions that must be explained.
 - Why are humans not satisfied when they have enough?
 - Why do people desire physical relationships?
 - Why is there a universal religious quest?

Explanatory Power

- When is a worldview practically relevant?
 - When it meets human needs.
 - When it provides purpose.
 - When it establishes meaningful relationships.

Why Need a Proper Worldview?

- Introduction – why are things the way they are? Do our assumptions hold valuable meaning?
 - Questions to consider:
 - How can a worldview influence my actions?
 - How can a worldview influence my way of thinking?
 - How can a worldview influence the way I treat other people?

Why Need a Proper Worldview?

- Why a biblical worldview?
 - “Without a biblical worldview, all the great teaching goes in one ear and out the other. There are no intellectual pegs...I the mind of the individual to hang these truths on. So they just pass through. They don’t stick. They don’t make a difference.” – George Barna.
 - Biblical worldview = genuine Christianity.

Why Need a Proper Worldview?

- A biblical worldview provides purpose and direction to our faith.
 - Knowing why you believe is as important to knowing what you believe.
 - A biblical worldview provides guidelines for our thinking:
 - Family values Euthanasia
 - Sexual mores Evil
 - Abortion Heaven and hell

Why Need a Proper Worldview?

- A biblical worldview is commanded in Scripture.
 - Why and what are important, but how we should defend this belief is, too (1 Peter 3:15).
- What are the goals of Christian apologetics?
 - Convince unbelievers of the truth.
 - Instruct believers in the way of truth.
 - Build up believers in the truth.

Marks of a Proper Worldview

- Introduction
 - “The mark of a large ship can be gauged by the huge wake it leaves behind.” – Philip Yancey.
 - What marks would you search for as you make your decision or verdict?
 - Eyewitnesses Evidences
 - Reliable sources Accuracy of witnesses

Marks of a Proper Worldview

- A proper worldview affirms certain beliefs.
 - Question: What did you do when you got up this morning?
 - Got dressed Ate breakfast
 - Brushed teeth Combed hair
 - Answers: Why?
 - Because you were convinced of your existence.
 - Because you were convinced of a real external world.
 - Because you were convinced of an ultimate reality.

Marks of a Proper Worldview

- A proper worldview affirms certain truths:
 - What is truth? “A fundamental or spiritual reality. It is the affirmation of what is.” – Walter A. Elwell
 - Remember that truth is not a set of beliefs, it is a person.

Marks of a Proper Worldview

- 1. God exists.
 - He existed before time – Genesis 1:1, Ps 90:24
 - He is truth – Isaiah 65:16

Marks of a Proper Worldview

- 2. God reveals Himself – Hebrews 1:1-2 – How?
 - General revelation – Romans 1:20-21
 - Special revelation – the prophets and writings
 - Adam – Genesis 2:4-17
 - Noah – Genesis 6
 - Moses – Exodus 3:1-9
 - Samuel – 1 Samuel 3:1-14
 - Samaritan woman – John 4:7-25
 - Pharisees – His Word
 - Saul – Acts 9:1-9

Marks of a Proper Worldview

- 3. God's Word is unique.
 - Infallible – what it says will come to pass.
 - Inerrant – it is true in what it says about God, doctrine, faith and practice.
 - Inspired – 2 Timothy 3:16
 - Written down by inspired people – 2 Peter 1:20-21

Marks of a Proper Worldview

- 4. Jesus is God's Son – John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
 - He lived.
 - He died.
 - He was raised and lives again.

A View of Heaven and Hell

- Introduction
 - Gallop Poll – 73% of Americans believe in hell (compared to 54% in 1965) and 6% say they will end up there.
 - "Heaven and hell do not exist as places, but as states of consciousness while we are alive on earth." –The Unity School of Christianity.
 - Two things are for sure, death and taxes, but wait, millions of people avoid paying taxes!

A View of Heaven and Hell

- Introduction
 - Is there a God-shaped void?
 - We are stuck in time but... – Ecc 3:10-11
- Christian worldview
 - Jesus is alive.
 - He's coming again.
 - Eternal destiny awaits us all.
- The question is not *when*, but *why* and *what?*

The Late Great Mistake

- Hal Lindsey – the Late Great Planet Earth
 - Clear case that we are in the end times.
 - Jesus was returning at any moment.
- Issues:
 - Will He return before I marry?
 - Will we go through the Tribulation?
 - Will there be leisure suits in heaven?

From Creation to Completion

- Focus on that which we know.
 - God's in charge.
 - He created the universe and knows how His plans are going to work out.
- End of time, end of death.
 - Jesus comes, the end comes – 1 Cor 15:22-26
 - God's last detail is to put an end to the enemy from the Garden, death.

Signs of the Times

- Jesus said... Matthew 24
 - Jerusalem will be destroyed (2).
 - Trouble and tribulation all around (4-28).
 - The gospel will be preached all around (14).
- Nothing else has to happen for us...
 - Society does not need to get worse.
 - Israel doesn't have to get invaded.
 - Some terrorist dictator doesn't need to take over the world.

The Last Verdict

- Second Coming – Matt 25:31
- Resurrection – Matt 25:32
- Judgment – Matt 25:32, 2 Cor 5:10, 2 Peter 2:4, 2:9, Rev 20:11-12, 20:15, Hebrews 9:27
- Eternal destinies decided – Matt 25:46

What the Bible says about Heaven

- Heaven is a real place – 2 Corinthians 12:2-5, Revelation 4:1-2.
- Paul and John were given the unique privilege of seeing it before their deaths.
- In Greek, *heaven* means, "the seat of order of things; were God dwells."

What the Bible says about Heaven

- Heaven will be full of people – Rev 21:6-7.
 - Who will be there? We will recognize – Matt 8:11
 - What will it cost those who make it into heaven?
 - Believers = nothing.
 - Jesus = everything
- Heaven will give us the opportunity to dwell with God – Revelation 21:2-3.
 - We will get back the original garden with God.
 - "I can only imagine."

What the Bible says about Hell

- – Luke 16:22-23.
 - Hell is a real place
 - When the rich man dies, his soul was in Hell.
 - Greek meaning, "the abode of the wicked; an uncomfortable place."
 - Hell is a place of torment – Luke 16:24, Mark 9:44-48, Matt 13:37-42 – Intense pain, agony.

What the Bible says about Hell

- – Luke 16:22-23.
 - Hell is a place of lost opportunity – Luke 16:25
 - What opportunities have you let slip by?
 - How did this change you outlook?
 - Thomas Merton: "Why would anyone be shattered by the thought of hell? It is not compulsory for anyone to go there."

A View of Absolute Truth

- Introduction
 - George Barna – In 1997, 50% of Christians and 25% on non-Christians said there are moral truths that are unchangeable. In 2000, 40% of those involved in a Christian discipleship process believe that there is no such thing as absolute moral truth.

A View of Absolute Truth

- Introduction
 - “Postmodernism affirms that whatever we accept as truth and even the way we envision truth are dependent on the community in which we participate... there is no absolute truth; rather, truth is relative to the community in which we participate.” – Stanley Grenz, a Primer on Postmodernism.

Targets of Justification

- The target of situational truth: right and wrong are determined by the situation, not by an objective moral truth. (Stealing food when you're poor?)
- The target of consequential truth: right and wrong are not determined by a moral absolute, but determined by the outcome of a situation. (Convincing a man to not commit adultery).

My Response to Truth

- My responsibility to absolute truth – Exodus 20:15 – truth determines what we are to do.
- My responsibility to principle truth – when the Bible does not specifically address the issue – (taking drugs, speeding on the highway).
 - The temple principle – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - The control principle – 2 Peter 2:19

A View on World Religions

- Introduction
 - Allah = God – radical monotheism; “we shall not serve anyone but God, and we shall associate with none other but Him,” The Family of Imran, Surah 3:64.
 - Brahman = a Hindu personal loving god who desires men to be saved; but he is described more often as impersonal and completely above creation, uninvolved with life on earth.

A View on World Religions

- The ultimate question – Matthew 16:13 – “Who do you say the Son of Man is?”
 - The Christian view – understand the original, more than the counterfeit.
 - Jesus is God – 1 Timothy 3:16, John 1:1-5
 - Jesus died for the redemption of mankind – John 3:16, Romans 5:8.
 - Jesus is the only way to Heaven – John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5.

A View on World Religions

- The ultimate question – Matthew 16:13 – “Who do you say the Son of Man is?”
 - The Buddhist view.
 - Ignorance is the roadblock to salvation, not sin.
 - Life (the world and existence) is an illusion.
 - Only the destruction of that belief will stop the mad course of the world.
 - Basics:
 - Four Noble Truths
 - Eightfold Noble Path

A View on World Religions

- Four Noble Truths
 - Life means suffering
 - Desire is the origin of suffering
 - Cessation of suffering is attainable
 - The path leads to cessation of suffering

A View on World Religions

- The Eightfold Noble Path
 - Wisdom
 - 1. Right View – understanding wisdom
 - 2. Right intention – volitional control

A View on World Religions

- The Eightfold Noble Path
 - Ethical Conduct
 - 3. Right Speech – avoid lies and harsh words
 - 4. Right action – deeds and bodily actions
 - 5. Right Livelihood – legally and peacefully

A View on World Religions

- The Eightfold Noble Path
 - Mental Development
 - 6. Right Effort – the will without confusion
 - 7. Right mindfulness – to see things as they really are
 - 8. Right concentration – meditation on a selected item

A View on World Religions

- The ultimate question – Matthew 16:13 – “Who do you say the Son of Man is?”
 - The Islamic view.
 - The Qur’an rejects redemption; salvation depends on a man’s actions and attitudes.
 - However, repentance (*tauba*) can turn an evil man towards the virtue that will save him.

A View on World Religions

- The ultimate question – Matthew 16:13 – “Who do you say the Son of Man is?”
 - The Islamic view.
 - So, Islam does not hold out for salvation through God’s work, but invites mankind to accept God’s guidance.
 - Basics:
 - No assurance of salvation, God is sovereign.
 - Strict monotheism leaves not room for Christ’s divinity.
 - The Five pillars of Islam.

A View on World Religions

- The Five Pillars of Islam
 - *Shahadah*: Faith or belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad; (Belief)
 - *Salah*: Establishment of the daily prayers; (Worship)
 - *Zakat*: Concern for and almsgiving to the needy; (Giving)
 - *Sawm* during *Ramadan*: Self-purification through abstaining from food; (Fasting) and
 - The *Hajj*: The trip to Mecca for those who are able (pilgrimage)