Worldview: An Introduction

What is a Worldview?

Definitions:

* “A worldview is simply the total of our beliefs about the world, the ‘big picture’ that directs our daily decisions and actions.”-Chuck Colson & Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?*
* “A habituated way of seeing and doing.” -Paul Shockley
* Core beliefs which determine how we live
* Everyone has one. No exceptions.

A Person’s worldview tells you:

* What they truly believe
* How they live on a daily basis
* What sort of pains they’ve had in life
* Where you should start in your apologetics

How are worldviews formed?

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The 7 Components of any Worldview:

1. View of God
2. View of Truth
3. View of Reality
4. View of Knowledge
5. View of Ethics
6. View of Humanity
7. View of Evil

What Are The Common Worldiviews?

* Naturalistic
* Postmodern
* Pantheistic
* Polytheistic
* Monotheistic
* Biblical

Naturalistic :

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| View of God | View of Man | View of Truth | View of Values |
| ATHEISM: There is no God  AGNOSTICISM: There’s not enough evidence to say there is a God  SECULAR EXISTENTIALISM:  God does not exist so humanity must learn to live without Him. | Chance product of evolution  Entirely material “Biological Machine”  “Meat sacks”  There is no afterlife  There is no such thing as “sin” | Truth is determined by:  “Science”  Knowledge gained by the five senses | No objective  Prescriptive values  Morals are individual preference or products of society  Conscience is a product of evolution. |

Postmodern:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| View of God | View of Man | View of Truth | View of Values |
| NEW AGE SPIRITUALISM:  God is all of us.  NON-THEISM:  I believe there’s a God… but I don’t really at the same time. | Humans are pawns in cultural reality  They are products of their culture  Could be a product of evolution | Truth is what you want it to be  There are no universal  truths.  Truth is what you personally hold as meaningful | No moral objectives  Anti- Authoritarian  Values are social constructs and mental organizers with no source    Tolerance is a prized virtue |

Why study it/How to use it?

Reasons to Study Worldviews:

* It answers ethical/moral questions
  + What should I believe about this issue?
  + How should I respond to this event?
* It answers philosophic questions
  + What is truth and reality?
  + How do different people answer the big questions of life?
* It answers practical questions
  + What will I do next because of my worldview?
  + How will so-and-so act because of his worldview?

Questions for Determining Someone’s Worldview:

* + “Where do you think we came from?” “What are we humans?”
  + “What do you think happens when we die?”
  + “What has gone wrong with this world?” “Can you believe the evil stuff happening?”
  + “What do you think we should do to fix this world?”

What’s my Worldview:

Questions to ask yourself about your worldview:

* + What is real?
  + What are the nature and limits of knowledge?
  + What is good? How do I live a good life?
  + What is a “good person”?
  + How does one become a “good person”?
  + What do I believe about the 7 components of a worldview?

My worldview:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| View of God | View of Man | View of Truth | View of Values |
|  |  |  |  |
| View of Reality | Knowledge | Evil |
|  |  |  |