

Worldview Apologetics

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Week 1: Worldview Foundations

Biblical Foundations

- Christians must always **think Christianly**
– Matt. 22:37-38; Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 2:6-8
- Christians must be ready to **give a defense**
– 1 Pet. 3:15
- A defense involves **reasoned persuasion**
– Acts 17:2-4, 17; 18:4, 19; 19:8-9; 24:25
- A defense involves **intellectual warfare**
– 2 Cor. 10:4-5
- A defense means **showing what's already known**
– Rom. 1:18-21

What in the World is a Worldview?

1. A way of viewing the world.
2. A network of ultimate beliefs, ideas, values and assumptions about the universe and our place in it that shapes how a person understands their life and experiences (and the lives and experiences of others) and how that person acts in response.

What in the World is a Worldview?

- Everyone has a worldview
 - Everyone has one whether they know it or not
- A worldview involves “Big Question” beliefs
- A worldview functions like a filter or spectacles
 - It affects what you ‘see’ and how you ‘see’ it
- A person can change their worldview
 - Small changes aren’t too difficult
 - Changing your entire worldview is difficult

Why Think Worldviews?

- Every religion reflects a worldview
- Every secular ideology reflects a worldview
- Thinking in terms of worldviews helps us to...
 - understand why people see the world as they do
 - make comparisons between different views
 - How do you compare Islam and postmodernism?
 - How do you compare Mormons with the New Atheists?
 - make reasoned evaluations of different views
 - have constructive conversations with others

What it TAKES to Make a Worldview

Theology

- Is there a God?
- What is God like?
- How does God relate to the world?
- How does God relate to human beings?
- How does God relate to me?

What it TAKES to Make a Worldview

Anthropology

- What are human beings?
- Where did we come from?
- Are we special in any way?
- Are we here for a reason?
- Are we basically good or bad?

What it TAKES to Make a Worldview

Knowledge

- What can we know about the world?
- What can we know about God?
- How do we know what we know?
- Are there any limits to our knowledge?
- How can we increase our knowledge?

What it TAKES to Make a Worldview

Ethics

- Is morality real or illusory?
- Is morality objective or subjective?
- How do we know what is right or wrong?
- Why should we be good anyway?
- Are we accountable to anything or anyone?

What it TAKES to Make a Worldview

Salvation

- What is humanity’s most serious problem?
- What (if anything) is the solution?
- Are there several solutions?
- What part (if any) do we have to play?
- What part (if any) does God have to play?

**The Christian (Biblical) Worldview:
Theology**

- There is a God (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:6)
- God is spiritual, personal, sovereign, holy, loving, all-powerful, all-good, all-knowing, just, and merciful
- God is a Trinity (Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19)
- God created the world and is not dependent on it (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 90:2)
- God is intimately involved in the world (John 1:14)
- God created us, loves us, and speaks to us (Gen. 1:27; 1 John 4:7-19; Heb. 1:1-2)
- God desires a personal relationship with me (2 Cor. 5:18-20; Rev. 21:3-4)

**The Christian (Biblical) Worldview:
Anthropology**

- We were created by God in his image (Gen. 1:27; 9:6)
- We are marred by sin (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:20)
- We have bodies and souls (Matt. 10:28; 2 Cor. 5:1-6)
- We exist to glorify God and to enjoy an eternal personal relationship with him (Isa. 43:7; Rev. 21:3-4)
- Our existence doesn’t end at physical death (Heb. 9:27)

**The Christian (Biblical) Worldview:
Knowledge**

- Knowledge of the world through:
 - our reason and senses (Matt. 16:2-3)
 - Scripture (Heb. 11:3; Luke 1:1-4)
- Knowledge of God through:
 - nature (Ps. 19:1-2; Rom. 1:18-32)
 - Scripture (Matt. 4:4; Rom. 10:11; James 4:6)
- Our knowledge is fallible and limited (Job 36:26; 38:1-7; Rom. 11:33-34; 1 Cor. 13:9)

**The Christian (Biblical) Worldview:
Ethics**

- Morality is real and objective (Ps. 19:7-13; Isa. 5:20; Judg. 21:25)
- Morality is grounded in God’s character (Matt. 5:48; Isa. 61:8; 1 John 4:7-8)
- Known through conscience and Scripture (Rom. 2:14-15; Ps. 119:9, 11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- We should do good because we love God (1 John 5:3)
- We are finally accountable to God (Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27)

**The Christian (Biblical) Worldview:
Salvation**

- The main problem: sin and divine judgment (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-21; 6:23; Col. 1:21)
- The only solution: the cross of Christ (Rom. 3:24-26; Eph. 2:16; 1 Pet. 3:18; John 14:6)
- God’s part: incarnation and atonement (Phil. 2:6-8; Gal. 4:4-5)
- Our part: faith and repentance – not works! (John 3:16; Acts 20:21; Rom. 3:22, 27-28; Eph. 2:8-9)
