

## Worldviews

There is no doubt that America is reaping the consequences of decades of decisions. Many are saying it's because we haven't treated others with justice. While others claim our entire societal structure is unjust.

Yet, this same group wants to deny God, deny His definition of right and wrong, deny life and disregard His definition of marriage and family.

To even a casual observer, the question arises, "What then is the basis for their terms "justice", "good" & "evil"?

All too often it appears there is a merging of views. We say we believe in God, yet we decide to make up our own values that fit our perceived reality and our feelings.

How are we as Christians to deal with this in our own thoughts and lives and as we attempt to reach our neighbors?

It first comes down to understanding how our worldview determines our thoughts and actions.

Our world was built by God using His wisdom. **Prov. 8** tells us

"Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse, it not...For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that have me love death."

**John 14:6** shows us the access to this wisdom: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

I want our goal tonight to be a basic understanding of the current prevalent worldview, so that we can have questions we can use to start witnessing conversations.

Let's begin with an example from around 5 years ago.

In the **Northwest** there have been attempts to **put businesses out** in their state because they **refused to violate** their **religious conscious** since their state and the country had approved gay marriage – the most **notable was an Oregon baker** that refused to bake a **wedding cake** for a gay couple..

- People look at Christians and wonder **how we could be so hateful**
- Aren't we **supposed to be loving**, yet to them we look like we're **discriminating**
- They see us **stand up against racism**, but not for **homosexuals** and think we're **hypocritical** or have a **double standard**

How does this happen?

**Worldview**

The problem is that **we all have** a worldview, but **few** of us know how to **articulate** that worldview.

Let's use our example of the **baker** – **Why isn't this a double standard?**

Based on our belief in the Bible we know that our **Ethnicity** (Race) and our **Gender** is **sacred** – It has been **given to us by God**

- **It cannot be violated**

In that **same vein** our **sexuality is sacred** – It is the **design of God** and **cannot be violated**, therefore homosexuality violates it.

We **cannot treat one** area **sacred** and **other** areas **desacred**.

**Sex is a sacred gift of God** – Just because a person has a **disposition toward a sin** doesn't give us a **right to act upon that sin**.

I **mention** all of that to help us realize that **our worldview colors** everything around us.

**Our worldview is not what we see, but what we see with** – It formulates our **assumptions**, our **beliefs** and our **ideas**.

**Answers in Genesis** has hit on this for years, but it goes **deeper** than just defending the book of **Genesis**. **Our worldview**

1. **Gives us our perception of reality** – Why 2 people from the same street looking at the same law can have completely different reactions
2. **Gives us a basis for our decisions**

Look at it this way – **Worldview Triangle**

**Worldview Base -> Values -> Behavior**

**All worldviews cannot be true** – They make life worth **living** or make life **useless**

Most people have **never thought through** their worldview – Because as we'll see the majority of **worldviews aren't coherent** – they are filled with **contradiction**

**Unfortunately**, most of us have never wrestled with the **big questions of life** that **allow our beliefs** to form our **values** and **behaviors**. Rather we have a life that **absorbs the values** and **behaviors** of the **cultural norm** and allow that to shape our **beliefs**.

(We live a life controlled by peer pressure – have you been watching sports the last couple weeks?)

That's **living life backwards**

**Behavior -> Values -> Worldview** (**Ever try to balance a triangle on its point?**)

This is an **inconsistent, unsatisfying** existence that **leads to despair**.

So **how do we evaluate worldviews** to live our life?

Ravi Zacharias is the most noted for this method, but Norman Geisler and many others propose a similar method – the **3-4-5 method** (**we'll discuss 3 & 4**)

Every **worldview** must **pass 3 Tests**

1. **Logically consistent** – It is not self-contradictory  
(Jim is married to Sue, but Sue is not married to Jim)

2. **Empirically adequate** – It must match what we see in reality  
(All trees are blue, yet we know that trees are green)
3. **Existentially relevant** – It must speak to how we actually live  
(All men live in harmony, yet we see constant bloodshed)

Every worldview must **address** the **Big 4 Questions**

1. **Origin** – Where did I come from?
2. **Meaning** – Is there purpose to life?
3. **Morality** – How should I live? Is there right & wrong?
4. **Destiny** – Where am I headed?

Every worldview must **employ 5 disciplines** to be analyzed – Which is **beyond** the time we have to discuss tonight.

Let's **focus on the 4 Big Questions** – Origin, Meaning, Morality and Destiny.

You say – This is **just information** – No, this **helps us understand** why people act the way they act and helps us ask them questions. The Holy Spirit uses scripture and those questions to grip their heart.

Why is the **humanist pro-abortion**, yet so outspoken about the **environment** and the death penalty?

Why can a **student watch, laugh** and even **film** while a crowd of kids beat someone to death?

Why **coming through our school system** does the use and **abuse alcohol** and **drugs** increase at a higher and higher rate?

Your worldview will define your life and ultimately the worldview of the majority will define our country.

### **3 Worldview Categories**

There are **3 worldview** categories that **all philosophies** and **religions** fall into – due to time we'll cover them this way.

Only the <b>Universe</b> Exists	<b>Atheism</b>	Humanism, Naturalism, Nihilism, Existentialism
Only <b>God</b> Exists	<b>Pantheism</b>	Hinduism, Buddhism, Zen, New Age
<b>Both</b> God & Universe Exist	<b>Monotheism</b>	Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Let's look at their answers to the **4 Big Questions** – thinking while they answer – Is this **logically coherent**

	Origin	Meaning	Morality	Destiny
<b>Atheism</b>	<b>Time+Matter+Chance</b>  We are a chance collision of impersonal atoms and nonrational, amoral energy	Our <b>unplanned existence</b> serves <b>no</b> ultimate, <b>meaningful</b> purpose.	<b>Subjective</b> to self, <b>relative</b> to culture and the <b>survival of the fittest</b> . <b>No</b> absolutes, <b>No</b> love, <b>No</b> justice	Personal <b>nonexistence</b> and eventual extinction of the human race
<b>Pantheism</b>	We are the <b>incarnation</b> and <b>reincarnations</b> of an impersonal; irrational, amoral <b>world soul</b>	The realization that <b>everything is God</b> , renders our personal existence, morality and rationality to be <b>meaningless</b>	There's <b>no</b> ultimate and eternal <b>distinction between God and self</b> nor good and evil when everything is God	A <b>return</b> to the impersonal <b>world soul</b> when desire for personal existence is abandoned
<b>Monotheism</b>	We are <b>created</b> in the image of a personal; rational, moral, infinite being	<b>Eternal</b> existence as a distinct individual gives us meaning. Rationality	<b>Absolute</b> morals define love, create justice and govern relationships for everyone.	<b>Day of judgment</b> for all humanity to receive eternal life or eternal death

		and morality connect us to God	Evil is the perversion of good and the opposite of love.	
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So let's consider some of the **aspects of Humanism**.

1. **Origin** – God had nothing to do with it. Something from nothing over billions of years.
  - **Problem** – Can we live with that thought? That means we are **just animals**.  
If we can see each other as just animals, why not treat each other that way? Journalist Tanya Gold expressed the angst this kind of view can generate when she wrote: “The complex human race has been reduced in my mind to a group of little apes, running around, rutting and squeaking ... **I am not sure if I feel empowered or dismayed** ... [am I] really just a monkey trying to survive[?]” And if everything, as Stephen Hawking would claim, has a physical origin, **why are all the things that we care about most non-physical? — beauty and art, morality and music, truth and justice, mind and soul and personality**. Somehow Richard Dawkins’ comment that we’re just “throw away survival machines” for our selfish genes doesn’t really ring true. – Andrew Bannister
  - Think of the ramifications of just existing by mere chance, with no purpose.
2. **Meaning** – Is there a purpose? The **humanist** would say, “**NO**”. We’re just a blip on the radar of time and then nothing.
  - Does that **answer satisfy**? Does that **stand up to reality**?
  - The **aggravation** at a dead-end job, because we feel there’s **no purpose** and we’re wasting our time.
  - If there’s **no meaning**, there’s **no hope**. **Why** does **saving the world** from “**global disaster**” matter.
  - There would be no such thing as justice.  
(See how this is falling apart for this worldview – leading to aggravation & despair)
  - Why the fight to live and survive? It doesn’t add up.
3. **Morality** – Is there right or wrong?

- The humanist would say there is **no such thing as good or evil** and yet tear down the **Christian for being unfair**.
    - In light of this worldview, think how **silly that argument** is?
    - There is no such thing as “fair”.
  - This is where most people **haven’t thought things through**. They believe **things unfair**, yet have **no underpinning for such a belief** if thought out.
    - There are **no absolutes** – Is that an absolute statement??
    - All **truth is relative** – Is this statement relative as well??
  - Leading atheists claim that there is no purpose, good or evil – **just pitiless indifference**.
  - Others say ethics is **just an illusion** placed on us by our genes to make us cooperate.
  - **Humanist Manifesto** – “Moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is **autonomous** and **situational**, needing no theological or ideological sanction.”
    - If this is true, **justice makes no sense**. **How can I accuse someone** of injustice when we’ve given **everyone the right** to their own perception of right and wrong?
  - **Every worldview with this construct breaks down** – liberty, freedom, good and evil always reveal themselves
4. **Destiny** – The humanist states we just **cease to exist**.
- If this is true, combined with their view on morality **nothing is off limits**.
  - Why would the **killing of 6 million people** in Nazi Germany be wrong?
  - It’s simply **survival of the fittest**. Get all you can during your time on earth, because that’s all that there is.
  - This is an important point to understand, because what we’re seeing in Portland and around our country with no respect for authority or institutions makes sense with their worldview. However, the cries of injustice don’t are contradictory.

We see that these answers

- First, they aren't **satisfying**.
- They are **not logically coherent** and cause problems with each other
- They are **not observable** in the world we live.
- It **fails all 3 tests** – Logic, Reality & Relevance

Now let us look at the Christian worldview

**Origin & Meaning** – Only if we are the creation of a personal, rational and moral God does life have meaning.

- We are all **significant because** we are all made in the **image and likeness** of God.
- We can **understand and relate** to the **personal attributes** that **we share** with Him.
- Being a person only makes sense when it connects us to a **personal eternal** reality.

**Morality** – **Absolute moral law** defines **love** and creates **justice**.

- It **guides our personal relationships** and **demands** that we treat others with dignity and respect. (image of God)
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment

Friends – Other worldviews don't give us satisfactory answers.

We **can't live** as if everything is **random** and we're just animals.

We **can't live** without **meaning** and **purpose**.

We **can't live** trying to **pretend that good and evil don't exist**.

It all comes back to the "**God question**".

Jesus came and said "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

**The Way** – Jesus didn't bring a faith or belief in **some world system** – It is trust in **Him**



**The Truth** – He is **truth** and **revealed truth to man** – Giving us **meaning** and **defining the morality** that man can only reach through Him.

**The Life** – He gives **purpose** and **meaning**

C.S. Lewis – “I believe in Christianity in the same way that I believe the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, **but because by it**, I see **everything else.**”

Andy Bannister – “**Only by first making sense of God, can we make sense of everything else, including ourselves.**”

### **How do we use this?**

- Ask leading questions (not arguing).
  - Do you believe in God?
  - Do you believe in absolute truth?
    - Whose truth wins?
  - If we're just chance, what gives meaning?
  - If we're just chance, what makes good and evil?
    - Good, evil, justice, liberty
- Allow the questions show the inconsistencies.
- Show the consistency of faith in God –
  - **Origin** – Where did I come from?
  - **Meaning** – Is there purpose to life?
  - **Morality** – How should I live? Is there right & wrong?
  - **Destiny** – Where am I headed?
- Allow the Holy Spirit to convict and draw.  
This can't be forced.