



## What's in a Worldview?

Finding Truth in Changing Times

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"Just when our philosophy has put us in a place where we can address the challenges of our time some new possibility comes which strains our ethical norms – Ravi Zacharias

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...just some of the issues facing us today

- Same-Sex Marriage
- Stem Cell Research
- Genetic Engineering
- Euthanasia (right to die)
- Terri Schindler-Sciavo
- ....and the list goes on

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## Why?

In a society with the most resources, the greatest scientist and engineers in human history, the wisest and most studied philosophers, why can't we find a system of thought that can address these issues with **meaning and coherence?**

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## What is a Worldview?

### Worldview –

- 1) The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.
- 2) A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.

from the German word **Weltanschauung** which means "mystical contemplation"

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## Why is My Worldview Important?

Understanding worldview is a bit like trying to see the lens of one's own eye. We do not ordinarily see our own worldview, but we see everything else by looking through it.

Put simply, our worldview is the window by which we view the world, and decide, often subconsciously, what is real and important, or unreal and unimportant. – Phillip Johnson

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## 3-Part Worldview Grid

Every Worldview, no matter what it's foundations must answer three essential questions....

- Where did we come from and what is our purpose in life? (Creation and Mission)
- What has gone wrong with our world? (why is there evil, war, poverty, disease, injustice?)
- What can be done about it? (where do we find remediation/redemption?)

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## Applying the 3-Part Worldview Grid to Postmodern America

**Question #1** - Where did we come from and what is our purpose in life?

**Answer** - We are the result of meaningless natural forces in our universe. Our lives have no transcendent meaning or purpose. (This view of our origins is consistently supported by "science")

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## Applying the 3-Part Worldview Grid to Postmodern America

**Question #2** - What has gone wrong with our world?

**Answer** - Nothing has gone wrong in our world. Every human behavior is the result of genetic forces that cannot be controlled. The mindless forces of nature retain those attributes and behaviors which are useful for survival and discards those which are useless or inefficient.

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## Applying the 3-Part Worldview Grid to Postmodern America

**Question #3** - What can be done about it (the problems in our world?)

**Answer** - "Science" is the only empirical, knowable truth in our universe. All other information is merely feelings, beliefs, or myths that are applicable only in the realm of private, subjective experience. The way to true redemption is through scientific discovery that can heal the sick, undo injustice, stop poverty, and end world wars.

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## How does the Christian Worldview answer 3-Part Worldview Grid

- Where did we come from and what is our purpose in life? (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-2, Genesis 1:26-28)
- What has gone wrong with our world? (Genesis 3:1-5, Romans 3:23)
- What can be done about it? (Romans 5:8, Romans 3:24, John 3:16)

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## Competing Worldviews

- Buddhist Worldview – we are God
- Hindu Worldview – everything is God
- Islamic Worldview – Allah is God
- Secular Worldview – God is whatever you want
- Postmodern Worldview – Science is God
- Feminist Worldview – God is a woman
- Atheist Worldview – There is no God
- Christian Worldview – God is God

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## Competing Worldviews

Because there are so many competing worldviews, Postmodern Society has smuggled into the dialogue a system of thought that is **Philosophically driven** but that its proponents would have you believe is **Scientifically or Factually driven**. They have attempted to change the dialogue about what is right and wrong into what is a fact and what is a value.

In other words, there is no right and wrong, only facts and beliefs. What worldview does this sound like?

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## What is Truth?

- The Bible teaches that we exist in a spiritual world (Ephesians 6:12)
- Our Physical world is only a manifestation of the Spiritual Reality around us and in some ways can become a barrier to us seeing spiritual reality (1 Corinthians 2:12-14)
- Our spiritual decision about what, or more importantly **who** truth is forms the basis for the rest of our lives. It is the bedrock on which all of our thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and opinions about the world and our lives in it will rest

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## Belief and Unbelief

- The Bible urges us to accept the Truth by believing it.... Not by believing in myths or legends but by believing in facts
- Faith is not a matter of believing something is true when you know it isn't
- But part of believing in truth is rejecting untruth or not believing in things that are contrary to the truth that you believe – to believe anything, you must disbelieve it's opposite

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## 1 John 4:5-6

- ...They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the spirit of **truth** and the spirit of **falsehood**.

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## Loving God's Truth

- Loving God Means Loving and Knowing God's Truth
- Knowing God's Truth Means Living God's Truth in our Everyday Experiences (mostly between Sundays)
- Living God's Truth means facing the issues of our day with the **meaning and coherence** that come from knowing God's Truth.

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## Last Word

- Christianity is not a series of truths in the plural, but rather truth spelled with a capital "T". Truth about total reality, not just about religious things. Biblical Christianity is Truth concerning total reality – and the intellectual holding of that total Truth and then living in the light of that Truth. – Francis Schaeffer

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