

WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?

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- Dominant worldviews in America
 1. Christianity, Islam, Cosmic-Humanism, Secular Humanism, Marxism, Post-Modernism
- What is a worldview?
 1. Formal—the truth claims that explain the world and reality (like map to look at world)
 2. Personal—application of this view to life (consciously or unconsciously using map)
 - *Formal & personal worldviews seldom match*
- Understanding worldviews
 1. All begin with religious or philosophical assumptions—even if they claim not to
 2. All have beliefs about reality and the source of everything (philosophy)
 3. All have beliefs about how to live (ethics)
 4. All have to answer fundamental questions about our origin, purpose, and destiny
- What is the question to ask regarding a worldview?
 1. Is it true or false? (Not whether it is religious or secular)
- What is truth?
 1. Something is true if it fits facts and reality
- Testing worldviews--is it true or false? (Truth fits facts & reality)
 1. Verifiable—evidence to support it?
 2. Logically consistent—not self-defeating or contradictory?
 3. Relevant—can we live by it?
- A Christian worldview is a biblically informed perspective on the world
 1. Christ came to save sinners and to testify to the truth (Lk 19:10; Jn 18:37; 1 Ti 2:3-4)
 - *He is The Truth (Jn 14:6)*
 - *God's Word is Truth (Jn 17:17)*
 2. Christianity is "Total Truth"—truth about all reality, for all people and times
 - *We're sinners in need of a Savior*
 - *It is "The Map" to navigate the world effectively—living in line with God's intentions*
 3. Man suppresses the truth and exchanges it for a lie (Ro 1:18, 25)
 4. Christians using other worldviews will be unconsciously shaped by their assumptions
 - *We are to take thoughts captive and test them with the Bible (2 Co 10:5; 1 Th 5:21-22)*
 - *We are not to be taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophies (Co 2:8)*
 - *If we're not transformed by God, we'll conform to the world and still be captive (Ro 12:2)*
- Need for understanding worldviews
 1. World revolves around ideas & ideas have consequences
 2. Christians need to be aware—what do you believe & why?
 - *9% of Americans & 19% of American born-again believers have biblical worldview (2009 Barna poll)*
 - *<1% of 18-23 year olds have biblical worldview (2009 Barna poll)*
 - *Christian high schoolers on average think as Secular Humanists (2000 Nehemiah Institute survey)*
 - *70% of church youth leave home & then leave church (2002 Barna poll)*
 - *32% of church youth listed intellectual skepticism—no sense; no proof; no answers to questions (2005 National Study of Youth & Religion)*
 - *When did people who no longer believe the Bible is true first have doubts? 4%-elementary; 40% middle; 44% high school; 11% college (Ken Ham, Already Gone, p. 172)*
 3. Christians need to make a difference--souls at stake, as well as institutions
 - *Paul reasoned daily in public (Ac 17:16-17)*
 4. Opening for Word—show conflict of what people believe but know experientially
 - *Missionaries learn language & thought-form of culture*
 - *Paul became "all things to all men" so that he might save some (1 Co 9:22)*
 5. Understanding what we believe & what other people believe is key to this century (Ravi Zacharias)