Building Your Worldview – Part 1

What are things you believe about the world?

Do you think that there are general statements about people that can be made, no matter where they live or what their background may be?

What we are talking about is your worldview. Christians have a worldview as well.

What do you think it means to think like a Christian?

What would you say are things that most Christians believe?

What Is a Worldview?

As the two words that make up this word imply, a worldview is how one views the world. This can be the individual's viewpoint upon how the world operates, or it can be formulated using the viewpoint of an organization, such as a church.

While you may not realize this, every church and denomination has a worldview. This is often stated in the "Our Beliefs" page for the church or denomination. You can see some examples of local churches you guys attend at the links listed below:

New Covenant Bible Church: https://ncbc.church/About/Beliefs

Antioch Church: https://antioch.net/about-us/

Veritas Church: https://www.veritaschurch.org/new-here#newhere-tabs

Christian Life Church: https://cedarrapidschurch.com/what-we-believe/

Good News Baptist Church: https://www.gnbc.church/about-us/

FaithLife Lutheran Church: https://faith-life.org/about

If you review these, you will see that each of these churches provides a set of principles that reveal the foundation of the church. These include such things as who is God, the nature of mankind, how one gains salvation, the role of the Holy Spirit, the truthfulness of the Bible, and other important doctrinal statements that explain the church's view.

If you have not reviewed the worldview of your church, it is something that you should do. Keep in mind that the church you are attending is not about great music, offering childcare, or offering groups where you can connect with others. That is not the foundation upon which you should be selecting your church. Instead, you should be learning the doctrinal worldview of your church, because these are the things that the pastors will be teaching you about every week.

One thing to keep in mind is that every person has a worldview. This worldview is what you use to answer the big questions in life. Your worldview is about determining if there even is a God, and what His relation is to His creation.

How would you answer that question? Is there a God? How do you know?

© 2025 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved

Four Primary Ways to View the World

There is no denying that every person has a worldview. However, the source of that worldview is where a person starts to develop their individual doctrine and standards.

It should be noted that every person's worldview starts with the concept of God. Either a person does not believe in God at all, which sends them to one of the other three ways to view the world, or they completely believe in a God or gods, which then determines their way of viewing the world through the lens of their religion.

Humanist

In this view, it is believed that human beings are the source for solving the big questions of life. Generally, the humanist worldview does not believe in a god of any kind.

Naturalistic

In this worldview, one believes that the solutions to problems are found in nature. This viewpoint can accept that there is a god or gods, but a supernatural being is not necessary.

Postmodern

Many younger people are embracing this particular worldview. It is something that colleges and universities are pushing their students to believe. In this worldview, the big questions are answered by one's subjective point of view. Truth is found in the individual's belief and there is no right or wrong for all people. In this worldview, all beliefs are equally valid, since every person has the right to believe the way he or she does.

Religious

When a person has a religious worldview, he or she is answering the big questions of life through the teachings of his or her faith. There is clearly a god or gods who determine or provide the answers for the big questions in life. In Christianity, the answer that a person gives to these questions is referred to as "apologetics."

Which of these four worldviews do you embrace?

Why do you believe that worldview?

Truth Matters

There is no denying that there are big questions to answer about life. For example, how would you respond to the question, "Is there a God?"

This is a very important part of one's individual worldview. Either you believe in a god or you don't. If you do, then the vast majority of decisions that you make are based upon the religious beliefs related to that god.

Let's look at an example. How do you believe that the universe was created?

© 2025 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved

In the Christian worldview, and that of many other religions as well, God is the reason that the universe exists. The Bible teaches us that He spoke it into existence.

A humanist would not believe that all. He or she would believe that the universe occurred simply by accident. That there is no divine force or rational reason for why it occurred. A naturalist would believe that the laws of nature somehow led to the creation of everything. That may mean that gods were involved, but they did not have to be. In the postmodern worldview, the individual's belief about how the world was created is all that matters. A person does not need to be able to justify or explain his or her belief; that person is "right" to believe whatever he or she wants.

What is the Christian belief about how the world was created?

If you are attending a true Christian church, and all at Hope CDA are, then you are taught the Christian worldview of how the world was created – that God created everything by speaking it into existence. Nothing was created apart from the action of God.

How does your personal belief mesh with the Christian worldview?

Why Your Worldview Matters

Why do you think it matters that you understand and develop your worldview?

You have a worldview even if you have never really considered that. There are beliefs you have about God, the world, why bad things happen, and much more. You could still be confused about some of these things, unsure as to the reason why bad things happen, but that is a worldview as well. In other words, "I don't know" can be your worldview.

As mentioned before, apologetics is a significant part of the Christian worldview. This is the branch of theology that involves a defense of Christian doctrine. A lot of times it means defending what the Bible says about something.

What you may not realize is that there are many out there attempting to attack the validity of the Bible. They question its origin, its truthfulness, its relevance, and its importance. Apologetics looks to defend the teachings of the Bible.

What we want you to keep in mind is that the moment that you called yourself a Christian, you became an apologist for the faith. People are going to want to know why you believe the things that you do. They are going to question you about things the Bible teaches, and they expect you to be able to explain why you embrace the teachings of Christianity. They want you to explain your worldview.

They also are looking to attack you on your "hypocrisy." When you do something that is in opposition to what the Bible teaches, they are prone to attack your faith or belief in God and what He teaches. Therefore, it is important that you understand the teachings of the Bible and that your personal worldview falls in line with what the Bible teaches.

Can you think of areas where you disagree with the biblical teachings?

© 2025 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved

Why do you think your personal worldview differs from the Christian worldview?

Let's take a moment to look at an example. First, it is important to recognize that this is not an attempt to judge anyone. It is only meant to teach you about aligning your worldview to the Christian worldview and why this is important.

Explain what you believe the Bible says about having sex before marriage. Do you believe you have the same personal worldview as the Bible's?

If you find yourself in opposition to the biblical worldview, then you likely are embracing a postmodern viewpoint. That your personal, subjective viewpoint should matter equally to that of God's. Understand that many Christians think this way. When they do not like what the Bible teaches, they simply ignore it.

Why do you think it is a problem when your personal worldview is different from the Christian worldview?

Abide in God

In the Book of John, Jesus frequently used the word "abide" to describe the relationship we are to have with Him. John 8:31 says: **So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples."**

John 15:4-5 adds: **4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

The word "abide" means to remain in a place, to be patiently waiting for something. It can also mean to endure something without objection. Jesus calls us to abide in Him. What do you think this means?

In John 15:5, Jesus told us that if we abide in Him and He in us, then we will bear much fruit. But, if we do not abide in Him, then we will do nothing.

What should this verse tell you about the importance of abiding in Him?

With this in mind, how would you explain the importance of embracing the Christian worldview? How do you feel this relates to "abiding" in Jesus?

The truth is that you cannot do anything apart from Jesus. Whether it is overcoming your addiction, fostering a close relationship, coming to terms with the loss of a loved one, or improving your performance at work, you need Jesus to help you! Jesus must be abiding in you.

For Him to do so, you must embrace the teachings of the Bible. The Bible is not intended for you to pick and choose the things you like and ignore the rest. That would be taking a postmodern worldview, determining subjectively what should be followed.

© 2025 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved

Instead, Jesus is asking you to embrace the entire teachings of the Bible. To see the value in every word that God provides.

Do you find it hard to follow the teachings of the Bible? What makes it difficult?

God expects you to adhere to everything in His Word. He expects you to abide in Him. You know who else expects you to do this? Your church. Take a moment to look at what your church teaches about the authenticity and significance of the Bible in the life of the believer.

For example, FaithLife explains, "We base our teachings, vision, and future on the inspired Word of God." Veritas explains, "…, we place a high value on being a people who grow in the knowledge of God and practice personal spiritual rhythms in devotion to God." Good News Baptist Church says, "We believe the Bible to be the perfect Word of God, fully and verbally inspired of God. We believe the Scriptures to be the inerrant, infallible Word of God, as found within the 66 books from Genesis to Revelation."

These are just a few examples. Go to your church's website to see what they believe. You are likely going to find that they have Scripture to support their worldview. You are going to find that they see the Bible as inerrant, meaning it has no errors. It is perfect. Therefore, your church wants you to embrace the Bible as the perfect Word of God and, as a result, to follow all of its teachings.

Does that align with your worldview? Is the Bible perfect in your eyes?

Over the next four months, we will spend time learning about developing your worldview. We will study what the Christian worldview is and, hopefully, you will find that your personal worldview aligns with God's.

Along the way, you may find that you are in opposition to what the Bible teaches. No one would be surprised by that. All of us have personal beliefs that we use above what the Bible teaches. However, that does not make our beliefs correct.

Regardless of whether you have been to a Bible college or are a brand-new believer, you are expected to explain your faith. This is why your personal testimony and your study of the Bible are essential to your ability to reach and disciple others.

We also want you to understand that your beliefs will be in opposition to that of others. Your friends and family may not like your Christian worldview. They may openly reject you. However, God's expectation is that you would always put Him first. That should be the foundation of your worldview.

© 2025 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved

Bible Passages for the Week:

Monday – Psalm 119:105

Tuesday – Isaiah 55:8-9

Wednesday – Philippians 4:8

Thursday – Philippians 3:13-14

Friday – Proverbs 13:19-20

Saturday – Pick a passage from Scripture that teaches you about having a worldview that aligns with God's.

© 2025 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved