

Forming a Christian Worldview

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

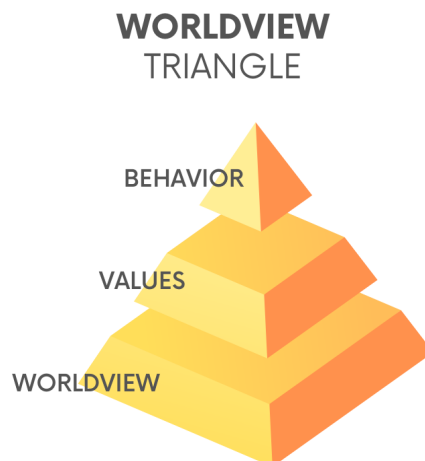
Goals / Key questions:

1. What is a worldview? Why is worldview thinking important?
2. What is a framework we can use for assessing worldviews?
3. What are the basic contours of the Christian worldview?
4. How does the Christian worldview contrast with other worldviews? What are some basic skills for engaging with them?

Worldview Basics

Worldview definition: The framework you use to interpret the world and your place in it and which is the basis of your decisions and actions (Sunshine, Phillips, Brown, Stonestreet)

Iceberg principle: Outward values and behavior are shaped by our worldview. What we *think* informs how we *act*. Our worldview underlies how we interact with ourselves, with others, and with God.



Framework for understanding worldviews

(Origin, Problem, Solution, Hope)

1. Origin, purpose, and meaning

- Where did everything come from?
- What is the nature of ultimate reality?
- Why are we here?
- What is a human being? What are we made for?

2. Basic problem

- What is wrong with the world?
- What is wrong with us?
- Is there right and wrong?
- Where do pain and suffering come from?

3. Main solution

- How is the world's basic problem solved?

4. Hope

- Where does our hope lie?
- What do we have to look forward to in the future?
- What happens after we die?
- Where is history going?

Christian Worldview

Some assumptions:

Christian Worldview, Unpacked

1. Origin, purpose, meaning: **CREATION**

Genesis 1:1; 1:26-28; John 17:3

2. Basic problem: **FALL**

Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; Romans 8:20-22; Ephesians 2:1-3

3. Main solution: **REDEMPTION**

John 3:16; Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:4-10

4. Hope: **NEW CREATION**

2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:26-30; Revelation 21:1-5

Notes on Worldview Basics

Engaging With Other Worldviews

Some assumptions:

“Modern Self” Worldview

- **Expressive individualism:** “Each of us finds our meaning by giving expression to our own feelings and desires.”¹

¹ Carl Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*, 46.

Commonly heard as...

- "Live your truth."
- "Be true to yourself."
- "Everyone has their own reality."
- "Reality is a social construct and is not objective."
- "Right and wrong are just your opinion." (usually)
- "Knowledge is subjective."

"Modern Self" worldview framework:

- Origin, purpose, and meaning:

- Basic problem:

- Main solution:

- Hope:

Notes on Modern Self

Responding to Other Worldviews

Some assumptions:

Engage constructively by asking questions

- **What**
 - *What do you mean by that?*
- **Why**
 - *What led you to that conclusion?*
- Gently **challenge** the worldview (assuming you perceive a problem)
 - *So if you believe x, does that mean you also believe y?*
 - *Can you clear this up for me...?*
- **Permission to share an alternative**
 - *Have you considered...?*
 - *I'm not sure that's going to work. Can I share an alternative?*

Notes on Responding to Other Worldviews

Keep Considering

- What's a worldview? Why is understanding worldviews important?
- In your own words, describe the framework discussed for understanding worldviews.
- Based on what's been discussed so far, in what ways do you think your worldview is consistent with a Christian worldview?
- In what ways do you think your worldview may not yet be consistent with a Christian worldview?
- Which of the worldviews discussed today are you most familiar with?
- Based on the origin/purpose/meaning-basic problem-main solution-hope framework, what questions could you ask in order to seek to understand somebody's worldview?

Recommended Resources

- *Making Sense of Your World* - Phillips, Brown, Stonestreet
- *Strange New World* - Carl Trueman
- *What's Your Worldview?* - James Anderson
- *Tactics* - Gregory Koukl
- Colson Center: <https://www.colsoncenter.org/>