



What in the World is a Worldview???

What is a worldview?

**“It is a branch of a
broader field of study
known as Philosophy.**

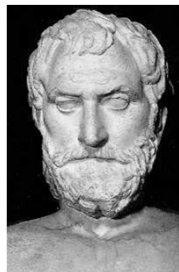


**“Worldview” is a Philosophical
Term** *(Weltanschauung)*

☞ *To many people
“philosophy” is a scary
term*

☞ *Philo (love) + sophia
(wisdom)*

☞ *Philosophy is the love (or
pursuit) of wisdom*



Wisdom

- ☞ Wisdom is good judgment and knowledge
- ☞ So, philosophy is the love (or pursuit) of good judgment



Get wisdom and insight! Do not forget or ignore what I say.

Do not abandon wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will keep you safe.

Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do.

Whatever else you get, get insight.

Love wisdom, and she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will bring you honor.

She will be your crowning glory."

Pro 4:5-9



Parts of Philosophy



- ☞ Metaphysics
- ☞ Epistemology
- ☞ Ethics
- ☞ Logic*
- ☞ Axiology*

*may be seen as sub-categories



Metaphysics

☞ The study of what there is

- What is the world made of?
- What kinds of things are there?
- What is real? What is merely apparent?
- What am I?



Epistemology

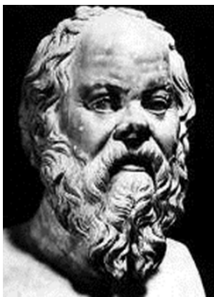


☞ The theory of knowledge

- What is knowledge?
- How do I know?
- Can I know anything at all?
- If so, where do I get it?
- Can I know anything independently of experience, through philosophical reflection alone?



Ethics



☞ Ethics is practical—pertains to action

☞ So, ethics is the pursuit of good judgment about action—

☞ What should I *do*?

☞ What should I *be*? What kind of life should I lead?



LOGIC

- ☞ This branch of Philosophy deals with the METHOD of argument.
- ☞ It offers answers to questions such as:
 - "Is that reasoning sound?"
 - "Is that statement true?"
 - "Is that conclusion valid?"



Axiology

- ☞ This branch deals the nature of value
- ☞ It offers answers to questions like:
 - Which is better honor or love?
 - A dead lion or a living dog.
 - "Is that good music?"
 - "Is that painting better than this one?"



A worldview is cohesive synthesis of one's philosophy in every major area of life; metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics.

"In simplest terms, a worldview is a set of beliefs about the most important issues in life."

Dr. Ronald Nash
Reformed Theological Seminary



What is a Worldview?



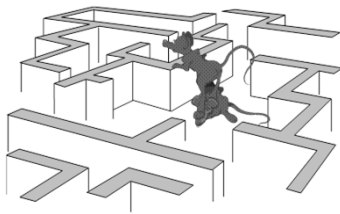
A worldview is a set of presuppositions which we hold about the basic makeup of our world.

~James Sire



Presuppositions: an idea formed prior to having knowledge. It is the opposite of an argument or proof.

What is the big picture of life?




Four Points

1. Everyone has a worldview.
2. Very few know they have a worldview.
3. Most do not know what their own worldview is.
4. The worldview of most is a conceptual disaster. It has no organization and is merely a set of responses based on opinion.



Worldview: An iceberg analogy

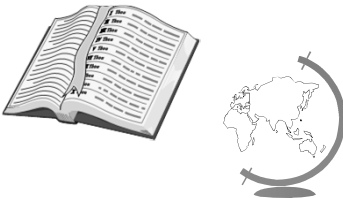
Your worldview is like an iceberg.....
About 90% is subconscious



4-Jan-12 16

Be Ready to Make a Defense


“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).



Common Worldviews

- ☞ Atheism
- ☞ Existentialism
- ☞ Hedonism
- ☞ Humanism
- ☞ Materialism
- ☞ Nihilism
- ☞ Pantheism
- ☞ Polytheism
- ☞ Postmodernism
- ☞ Pragmatism
- ☞ Socialism
- ☞ Theism

☞ In *American Literature* we will study seven different worldviews



Every worldview is made up of five concepts that relate to the three areas of philosophy. These are beliefs about:

Five Battlefields:

1. Ultimate reality - Metaphysics
2. God / Theology
3. Ultimate human nature / Anthropology
4. Knowledge – Epistemology
5. Right and Wrong - Ethics



How do you construct a Christian worldview?

You must lay the presuppositional foundation.

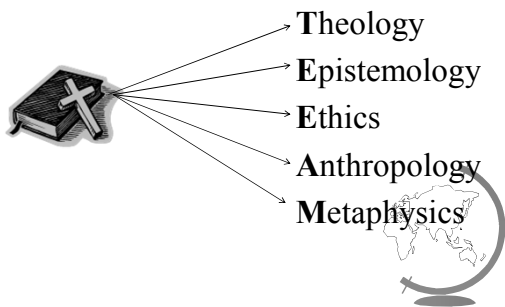
Every worldview is based on presuppositions.

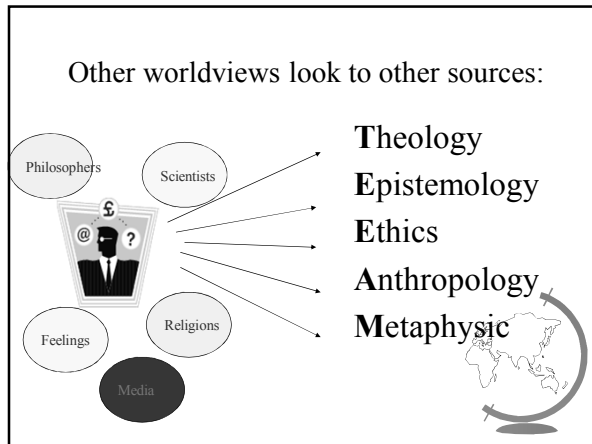
The Christian presupposes:

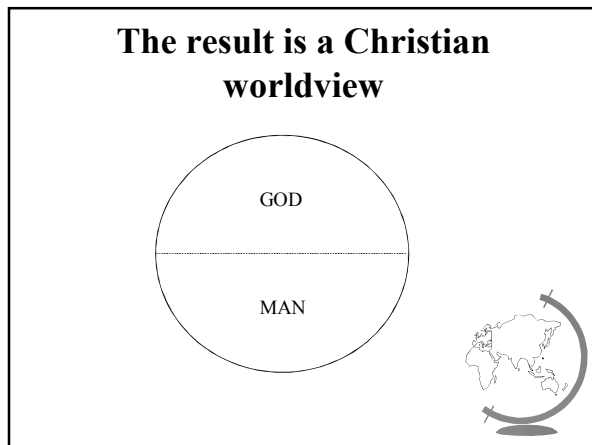
1. That there is a God
2. God has spoken in the creation and in the Bible
3. We can understand what God has said

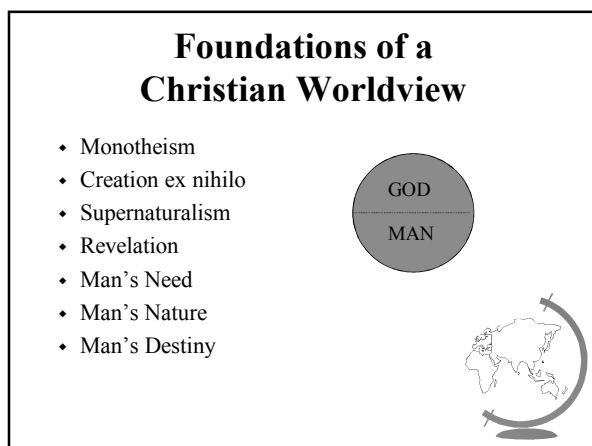


Once this foundation is laid then the Bible becomes our source for knowledge in every area of life.

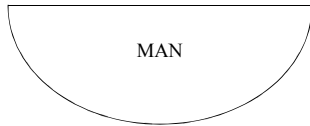








Naturalistic World View

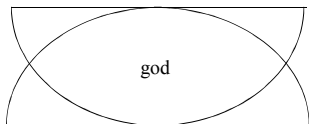


Foundations of a Naturalistic Worldview

- Atheism
- Evolution
- Materialism
- Human Autonomy
- Human Reason
- Science



Pantheistic World View



Foundations of a Pantheistic Worldview

- ♦ Monism
- ♦ Pantheism
- ♦ Human Divinity
- ♦ Cosmic Consciousness
- ♦ Reincarnation
- ♦ Moral Relativism



Pantheism



- ♦ There is no transcendent god.
- ♦ Truth is internal, not external.
- ♦ "We are all gods."

Worldviews need to be analyzed. Ronald Nash suggests four test for the authenticity of a worldview:

1. Reason: it should be rational. It should not ask us to believe contradictory things
2. Outer Experience: it should be supported by evidence. It should be consistent with what we observe
3. Inner Experience, it should give a satisfying comprehensive explanation of reality. It should be able to explain why things are the way they are
4. Practice: it should provide a satisfactory basis for living. It should not leave us feeling compelled to borrow elements of another worldview in order to live in this world.



American Literature Breaks down into five distinct periods each of which has a distinct worldview:

1. Colonial/Early American literature (1607-1750)
Theism
2. Neoclassicism (1750-1820)
Deism / Early Rationalism
3. American Romanticism (1820-1865)
Pantheism
4. American Realism and Naturalism (1865 -1920)
Rationalism
5. Modern Period (1914-Present)
Postmodernism



Take Every Thought Captive

“We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).