

This is section 13 of the course, Apologetics and World Views

How do I view the World?

As a person gets older, it is more difficult for him/her to read without glasses. At first, things get a little blurry, so just a fine correction will do. But as time progresses, the glasses need to become stronger and stronger. The lens in an older person's eye loses its elasticity and is no longer able to be fine shaped by the muscles in the eye. So the person needs glasses to see clearly.



A person's worldview is like wearing glasses. Without a true worldview, everything becomes blurry and muddled. What used to be wrong now does not look so bad. Society is continually shifting its views on things like abortion, homosexuality, bigamy, sex before marriage, and even marriage and the family structure. These things years ago were considered sin, but now days, they aren't. Everyone should do what he thinks is best for his own life!

A person's worldview is his mooring to what is right or wrong. If his worldview is Christian, then his mooring is sure. But if a person's worldview is a puzzle of all kinds of philosophies, then the direction for life becomes confusing. Today we are going to learn how important it is to establish a godly worldview.

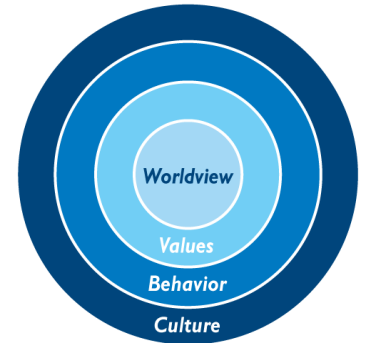
What exactly is a world view?

A world view is the sum total of answers that a person can give to the most important questions in life. If you take all the big questions in life, compile all your answers, and however coherent the system may result from these answers is your world view.

Everyone has a world view which is developed over time. In the case of children, their world view is evolving or developing as they experience life. And if a child is raised in a loving home, a child's view will reflect the world view of his parents. But if parents have wrong world views, then most likely the children raised by those parents will have a similar world view that may be disastrous.

While everyone has a world view, few people understand what a world view is and few can clearly articulate their world view. What we need to understand is that as we grow and develop, our society, our government, our teachers and friends, along with our parents are integrally involved in the development of our world view. That is why the scriptures tell us to carefully guard what we put into our minds because everything you think about and accept becomes part of your world view. Consider Philippians 4:8-9:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.



Most people's world view is a hodgepodge of ideas that are full of contradictions. That's because their sources of information have been in conflict. Some things they have learned from movies are contrary to God's Word. They learn other things from their parents --- perhaps right from wrong. But then they learn an opposite view from the television or a book they read. By the time a person is grown, most people's thoughts about things are a conglomeration of ideas, many in conflict with one another and many in conflict with God.

According to Dr. Ronald Nash, professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, there are FIVE parts to a person's world view. Another way of saying that is that there are five BIG questions that everyone must have some sort of answer about within their mind. And there are many sub-questions that may be asked within these five big questions.¹

- Does God exist and if so, can I know Him?
- Is there an ultimate reality?
 - How old is the universe?
 - Did it have a beginning in time?
 - If it did have a beginning, what brought it into existence?
 - Is everything that exists material in nature?
 - Is there such a thing as mind or soul?
- How can I know what is true?
 - Does knowledge come through body senses or by thinking?
 - Is truth relative or are there objective absolutes?
- What is right and what is wrong?
 - Does the situation determine what is right or wrong?
- What is human consciousness?
 - What is a human being?
 - Does human consciousness continue after death?
 - Am I free to make decision or is everything that happen predetermined?

All of these questions are philosophical in nature. Even though a person has never studied philosophy, every person has developed some sort of answer to these questions, whether it be false or true.

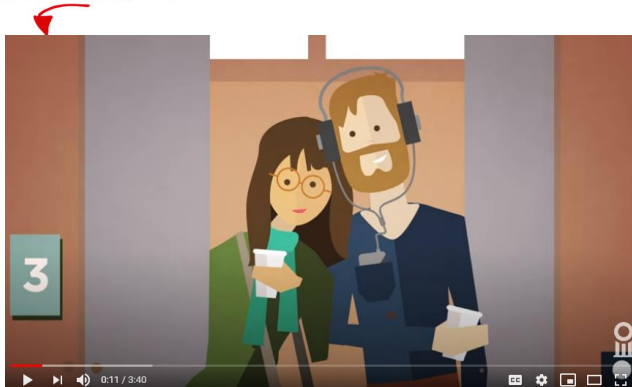
The worldview a person has developed then becomes the eyeglasses through which he sees and relates to others. The worldview becomes his guide in life. It is his roadmap showing him his direction in life.

¹ http://www.globalreach.org/english/images/E1005en_L01.pdf

For a Christian, God's Word is his eyeglasses, his guide to life, and his roadmap to give him direction in life. Those who do not know the Lord have no foundation upon which to base their lives.

There are basically two major world views that exist in our world.

CHECK THIS OUT! *What's Your worldview?*



Naturalism

Naturalism or materialism states that everything that exists is a part of, and exists in, a physical, material system. All that is not a part of the material system does not actually exist. Carl Sagan was a naturalist and astrophysicist, said, "The universe is all that is, or every was, or every will be."² Naturalism is a religion that denies, either directly or indirectly, the existence of God or non-material things.



The naturalist states that we are the product of random acts of nature with no real purpose. Every naturalist believes that the universe is eternal, and all material order has always existed. A naturalist denies that the material world was created. And a naturalism believes in evolution to explain the complex nature of plants, animals, and man. The naturalist believes that evolution must be totally random, not guided by reason or purpose, and not guided by a Divine Being.

He believes that people do not properly respect nature as they should; they should reverence to it. He believes that the world can be saved through ecology and conservation. A naturalistic would view generates many related philosophies such as relativism, existentialism, pragmatism, humanism, atheism, and utopianism.

Christian Theism

² <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/178439-the-cosmos-is-all-that-is-or-was-or-ever>

Christian theism is philosophy that centers on God and declares that God exists outside of the natural order we see in the universe. And since God created the order we see, then science can observe that order and discover more about the Creator. God also acts as a cause within our cosmos. God is a God of miracles. He is a God of love. God is constantly involved with his creation.



A Christian worldview states that everything, including mankind, is a result of God's creation, designed to govern the world and fellowship with the Creator. The Christian worldview declares that man has sinned against God and subjected the whole world to a curse. The Christian worldview states that God Himself has redeemed the world through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ, and one day will restore creation to its former perfect state. A Christian worldview leads us to believe in moral absolutes, miracles, human dignity, and the possibility of redemption.

The only world view that is true is God's Worldview. Our task in life to conform our worldview as close to God's worldview as possible. And that comes from obtaining our worldview from God's view. God has revealed His worldview in the Bible.

The test of a worldview is threefold. It should be logical and reasonable, and without contradiction. The outer and inner experiences of your world view should match the realities of life. Finally your worldview must be able to be lived out and practiced in your life. Within the Christian world view, the truths are reasonable and logical without contradictions, our experiences match the realities in life, and a person can practice it with total consistency in life.

So why do so many "Christians" not have a consistently biblical worldview? ³

There are many possible reasons why some Christians fail to have a consistently biblical worldview:

- 1) They are ignorant of what the Bible says. If someone doesn't know what the Bible says about the sanctity of human life, for example, it will be difficult for him or her to form a biblical view on the subject. For the uninformed, education is the key.
- 2) They reject what the Bible says on certain issues. The Barna Group conducted a survey asking questions about the Bible to determine if people truly believed what the Bible said. The results were startling: only 6 percent did. Professed Christians did not fare much better. If a professed Christian does not believe what the Bible says, it will be impossible for him to have an authentic biblical worldview. For those who are contrary, repentance is the key.⁴
- 3) They are more concerned with what the world thinks of them than what God thinks. "Fear of man will prove to be a snare" (Proverbs 29:25). A believer who views the world from a biblical standpoint recognizes that he is not of the world. Jesus said, "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you" (John 15:19; 17:14). When a believer starts making compromises with the world's way of thinking, he loses focus on God's perspective. For those who are fearful, courage is the key.

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-worldview.html> (used with permission)

⁴ <https://www.barna.com/research/americans-are-most-likely-to-base-truth-on-feelings/>

4) They are lukewarm in their commitment to Christ. Like the church of Laodicea, they are “neither cold nor hot” (Revelation 3:15), unwilling to take a stand for Christ. For the lukewarm, commitment is the key.

5) They are influenced by the lies of the world. From the time of Adam and Eve, Satan has used his ability to deceive and confuse (Genesis 3:1-6; Revelation 12:9). A powerful tool in Satan’s arsenal is the idea that the Bible is a book of myths, that it’s full of errors and not to be trusted. Satan wishes to convince people that the Bible is no longer relevant; its laws and principles are obsolete. Many in the church have been influenced by such thinking. For the deceived, discernment is the key.

6) They are swayed by their circumstances and doubt God’s promises. In Matthew 14, when Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on the water, he was demonstrating a biblical worldview: Jesus is the source of all power. However, when Peter focused on the storm-tossed sea, his worldview shifted: maybe the waves are more powerful than Jesus. For the doubting, faith is the key.

7). They consume much of the world’s entertainment. In their pursuit of entertainment, Christians have consumed much of what is on television, many the movies produced by Hollywood, the music they listen to, and the spectacular sporting events produced by colleges and professional organizations. The worldviews espoused in much of this entertainment is diametrically opposed to God’s worldview, so eventually their worldviews are modified. For the compromise, abandonment is the key.



The word *entertainment* is not found in the Bible at all. Once we read "entertain," in the sense of hospitality, but never the word *entertainment*. The word *fun* is never used in the Bible. The word *games* is never to be found. The word *play* is used a number of times: playing on musical instruments, playing the harlot, Israel sitting down to eat and drink and rising up to play (a reference to their naked dancing and worse), the boys and girls of Israel playing in the streets of Jerusalem after the return from captivity. The words *vacation*, *retirement*, and *sports* are not found in God's Word.

Many believers in the USA and around the world has taken their family to Disneyland or Disneyworld. Disney is the largest creator of “entertainment” in the world, owning ABS, ESPN, Touchstone Pictures, Marvel, Lucasfilm, A & E, The History Channel, Lifetime, Pixar, Hollywood Records, Vice Media and Core Publishing.⁵ In 2020 Disney released the Pixar short film, “Out,” which features a gay main character who “comes out” to reveal his desire for his boyfriend. This was produced for children!

Disney has been actively and aggressively promoting the gay agenda for years. For the last eight years, Disney has sponsored Gay Days. This last year’s Gay Days 30th Anniversary took place on November 2, 2020. It all started in 1991 with a one-day event. Now it has been extended to seven days. **It is now the world’s foremost LGBTQ celebration.** They now have Gay Days Anaheim at Disneyland. More than 180,000 gays have attended the Disney Gay Days in past years! If you want to stay at a special GAY Hotel, you can book your room through the Margaritaville Resort Orlando. You can obtain special Orlando rates which include pool parties and sexual orgies. Some Events are geared to lesbians through the week.

⁵ <https://www.titlemax.com/discovery-center/money-finance/companies-disney-owns-worldwide/>

The question may be asked, how can a person who loves the Lord and seeks to be obedient to Christ's commandments support the Disney Corporation by attending its parks or purchasing its products? The reason is because the world view of Christians who support Disney has been modified by this world's thinking about entertainment. They do not struggle or see anything contrary within their worldview that would prevent them from endorsing Disney, even though Disney promotes and endorses anti-Christian activities.

The first century Christians lived under a completely different set of principles and values than the Romans and their culture. They rejected the world's entertainment, honors, and riches. They were already citizens of another kingdom, and they listened to the voice of a different Master. This was as true of the second century church as it was of the first.

Because the earth wasn't their home, the early Christians could say without reservation, like Paul, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). Justin Martyr explained to the Romans, "Since our thoughts are not fixed on the present, we are not concerned when men put us to death. Death is a debt we must all pay anyway."

They demonstrated love for one another. They sold their properties and contributed to those who were in need. And the love of the early Christians wasn't limited simply to their fellow believers. Christians also lovingly helped non-believers: the poor, the orphans, the elderly, the sick, the shipwrecked—even their persecutors. Jesus had said, "Love your enemies ... and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). The early Christians accepted this statement as a command from their Lord, rather than as an ideal that couldn't be practiced in real life.

How did the early Christians relate to the world's entertainment and system? They rejected it! They refused to incorporate it into their lives. And as a result, persecution came! It was no surprise to them, for the Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:12, "*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*" Here are some reasons they were persecuted. See how these reasons relate to today's culture:

- Christians would NOT go to a hospital. They were under the protection of the heathen god, Aesculapius, and while sick in bed, the priest went down the aisles chanting to this god.
- The Christians would not go to the "public" schools because the schoolbooks told stories of the pagan gods as if true.
- Christians would not go to the gladiatorial combats or participate in most Roman entertainment.
- Christians refused to go to the theater because the plays were cruel and coarse.
- Christians would not go to the law court.
- Christians kept slaves but treated them kindly. That kind of treatment would cause other slaves to revolt against their masters.
- Christians would not take weak or unwanted children out in the woods and leave them to die.

To have a consistently biblical worldview we must go back to the Bible and take hold of the promises God has made to us, for the world offers us nothing ([Luke 9:25](#); [John 12:25](#); [Matthew 6:19](#)).

For more information on World Views, watch:

Christian Worldview vs. Non-Christian Worldview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM72xE7eLQo>

Answers in Genesis: Developing a Truly Christian Worldview
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgC7w83Zc4g>