

Notes for Session 3 – *What Can I Know About Reality?*

“A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions that we hold about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.” James Sire

A worldview must answer...

- What is my nature?
- What is my world?
- What is my problem?
- What is my end?

A functional worldview will...

- Solidify existing beliefs.
- Predict yet-to-be-developed beliefs.
- Recognize false beliefs.

My worldview affects...

- all I perceive.
- all I think.
- all I do.

Most of our culture and mission field has a different worldview.

Why study worldviews?

- Clarify my own worldview.
- Understand those around me.
- Pass my worldview to others.

10 components of a worldview...

THEOLOGY – what you believe about the supernatural.

PHILOSOPHY – What you believe about reality.

ETHICS – What you believe about right and wrong.

ORIGINS – What you believe about how we got here.

PSYCHOLOGY – What you believe about the way we think and act.

SOCIOLOGY – What you believe about how we get along with each other.

LAW – What you believe about justice.

GOVERNMENT – What you believe about authority.

ECONOMICS – What you believe about material belongings.

HISTORY – What you believe about the past, present, and future.

4 dominant worldviews...

- **Christian (Biblical)**
- **Humanist**
- **New Age (Cosmic, Pantheist, Hindu)**
- **Islamic**

Post-Christian – The idea that our US culture, principles, and presuppositions are no longer based on the Christian (Judeo-Christian) worldview.

THEOLOGY (Christian) – One God in three persons. Eternal, altogether holy, all powerful, all-knowing, omnipresent, unchanging, loving, just, good. Manifested in the person of Jesus. Described in God’s own words in the Bible.

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

“...Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...” Colossians 2:2-3

THEOLOGY (Humanist) – No need for God. “Man is the measure...”

THEOLOGY (New Age) – Pantheism. All is god—god is all.

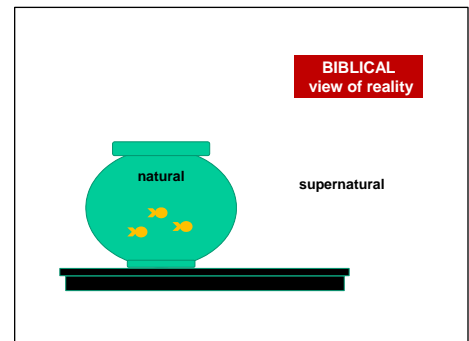
THEOLOGY (Islamic) – One god, Allah, as described in several writings. Unpredictable, unloving.

PHILOSOPHY (Christian) – Dualistic... Soul and body. Natural realm and supernatural realm.

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” Hebrews 11:3

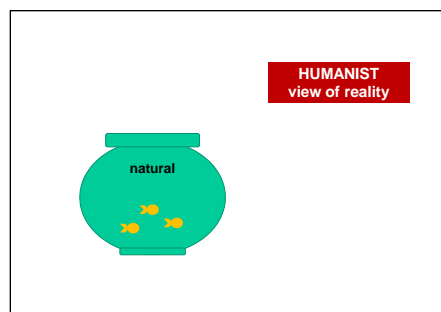
“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” 2 Corinthians 5:1

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12



Supernatural – Beyond or outside of the natural realm experienced by our five senses.

PHILOSOPHY (Humanist) – No intrinsic purpose. We make our own purpose and meaning to life. Only space/time/matter/energy is real. No spiritual, supernatural, or soul or after life.



PHILOSOPHY (New Age) – Only the spiritual is real. Spirit brings about the physical. Our goal in life is to realize our divine nature and rise to higher levels of enlightenment. We share our spiritual essence with all other beings and things. We are the universe.

PHILOSOPHY (Islamic) - Keep the 5 pillars of Islam...

Shahadah – Obey all of Allah's words.

Salah – 5 daily prayers.

Sawm – Fasting during Ramadan.

Zakah – 2.5% to the poor.

Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca.

Convert world to Islamic state.

Jihad – Struggle against enemies of Islam.