

Worldview

Is Christianity True pt 2

4/27/25

Day 1

In our first session in this series, “Is Christianity True,” we talked about what is truth and why is it important. One helpful next step would be to look at what is a worldview to understand how people think and see the world so we can talk in a way that makes sense to people where they are at.

So I've got a little challenge for you. Quickly read this sentence and in own pass, count how many “F’s” You see.

“Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years.”

Now what happened is you likely missed the of's for a few reasons. Number one, it doesn't sound like an F, it has a different sound. But there's also a sense where rather than just looking for the letter F, you read it, didn't you? Your mind defaulted into reading words like of, and, an, and the, are connectives that don't add any content and our minds can skip over them. Isn't it interesting that we have wired ourselves to read a certain way and in many ways are not even aware that we read that way?

This is in a sense what a worldview does. We've adopted certain beliefs, we've adopted certain ideas, we've adopted a certain way of seeing the world that we naturally operate from. But very few people have taken the time to stop and think, "What is my worldview? Where did it come from? Why do I hold this worldview? And are my beliefs actually true?"

1. What do you think it means to have a “Christian Worldview?”
2. How would that compare to having a “Secular Worldview?”

Day 2

The reality is we've all adopted ways of seeing the world that shape how we live. One helpful way to look at this is to think of an Iceberg. With an iceberg, a little part sticks up above the surface of the water, but the majority of the ice is below the water. Think of behavior as being the part above the surface. These are actions, our choices, the way we spend our time, our money, etc. The question is, what shapes our behavior? So this is like how we treat our parents or friends, how hard you work at school, how you spend your time, what do you eat, et cetera. These are actions we are doing moment by moment, day by day. And I would argue that these are motivated primarily by our values, that's the part below the surface that people don't see. What we value in life is going to shape the choices that we make.

So if you value education, you've probably saved money for your kids' education and encourage them to go through high school and go to college and beyond. If you value pleasure, you've probably spent money and resources on things that give you pleasure. If you value caring for the poor, you've probably spent your time and your money caring for the poor. So our behavior's motivated by our values. So people can engage in the same exact behavior but have very different values motivating why they do so. Now, what shapes our values? It's our worldview. Our worldview shapes our values. Now here's a complex definition of worldview, but I'll break it down. You ready? A worldview is a view of the world.

1. What are some of your values that shape your behavior?

Day 3

Everybody has a worldview. You can't not have a worldview. It's inescapable. But because it's below the surface and sometimes something we've simply adopted without reflection like the way we read, not a lot of us have analyzed carefully the worldview we hold and why we hold it. Now, back to our iceberg, there's actually one more component below the surface. What shapes our worldview? I think our worldview is primarily shaped by relationships, by the people that we know, by the experiences that we have with people we are in relationship with..

Paul Vitz is a psychologist who grew up in a Christian home in the midwest, but when he went to graduate school in New York, he kind of felt embarrassed. So he said as a result of that, he learned how to talk, he learned how to dress, and he naturally adopted how to see the world. His worldview began to shift, not because he was given good arguments that God doesn't exist and that the Bible's false, but relationally, he wanted to fit in. He wanted to ground his identity. It wasn't until years later in his 30s that he revisited his faith and came back and was convinced that it was true. But Paul Vitz wrote a very interesting book called Faith of the Fatherless.

Now, this is a controversial book and idea, but he said as he examined some of the great atheists, Nietzsche, Freud, Camus, Sartre, he said he found something all of them had in common - a dead, distant, or harsh father. Now, what's his point? His point was simply that we tend to project our earthly father onto our Heavenly Father in ways many of us don't even realize. The point is we can have all sorts of relational motivations to believe in God or not believe in God that profoundly shape our worldviews. So worldview is not just mental, it's a part of the heart. It's a part of our relationships and a deep part of our experiences.

1. Thoughts?

Day 4

Another way to look at worldview that I think you might find very helpful is that worldviews answer three questions.

Every worldview is going to answer at least three questions. Because ultimately our world view is a story. As Greg Koukl says, "It's a story about reality." So every worldview is going to have some creation story about how we got here. Where are we from? Why are we here? Every belief system is going to have some creation story. If they don't believe in God, there's not a creator, but there's still a creation story about how and why we're here.

The second component is what we would call the fall. It's in the sense of what went wrong. Why is the world broken? I'm not aware of any worldview that says things are just fine and they're perfect as they are. That's what we would call delusional. Worldviews differ over what they think is wrong with the world, but every worldview identifies something broken in the world.

And then the third one is redemption. How do we fix it? And what follows from fixing the problem? Of course, sometimes we word this differently rather than creation, fall, redemption, sometimes I'll say origin, problem, solution, to use non-Christian language, origin, predicament, solution. But notice something, the only way you can have a solution that works is by doing what? Properly identifying the problem. The only way you can fix your car if it's out of gas is not by rotating the tires, not by getting new spark plugs, and not plugging in an EV to charge it if it's a gas-powered car, you've got to identify the problem and fix it. The question is, which worldview accounts for why we're really here? What is actually the root of brokenness in the world? And if you identify it properly, then you can fix it.

1. What parts of your worldview answers the three questions?

Day 5

The Christian story, of course is, in the beginning, God created. You're not an accident, God is eternal, and God made a conscious choice to bring us into existence. God is the author of this story. What went Wrong with the World? It's not a lack of economic distribution as we see in Marxism. What's wrong with the world is not religion. What's wrong with the world is sin. At the root of the issue, Jesus said is what? We have to be born again because we are sinful and our hearts are broken. So you might say some worldviews identify the problem out there in the world.

Marxism, the problem is out there. Christianity, the problem is inside in the human heart. We need to be born again. And how do we fix this? Everybody knows the answer.

Jesus.

Jesus. One guy got it. If you're at a church event and someone asked a question and you don't know the answer, just say, "Jesus," you'll get it right half the time.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, whosoever believed in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Jesus lived the sinless life we could not live ourselves. Jesus paid the debt to God that we owed to God and by grace, through faith, offers us eternal life if we're humble enough to accept it.

1. Thoughts?

2. Is there anyone that God has put on your heart to share your worldview with?