

“Identifying a Worldview”

Worldview Camp: Connection Pointe Christian Church – 2022

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Introduction

- A. Why do people “see” different things when they look at the same thing?
- B. **“WORLDVIEW”**
 1. **A worldview:** “Basic beliefs we assume or think to be true about the **BIG** questions of life.”
 2. Different worldviews offer different answers to these questions.
 3. **A Christian (Biblical) worldview:** “Basic beliefs we assume or think to be true about the BIG questions of life *that are informed by the **WORD** of God and directed by a **LOVE** for God.*”
- C. Some “worldview questions” about God, the universe, life, meaning, morality, knowledge, death, etc.
- D. Key Scriptures:
 1. **Mark 12:30** “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (cf. Deut. 6:5)
 2. **Romans 12:1-2** “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.”
 3. **1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (cf. Eph. 6:11)
- E. Disturbing stats.
 1. About **70%** of youth group grads had **“significant doubts”** about faith.
 2. About **65%** of church youth: Will **disconnect** from church in their 20s.
 3. About **13%** of teens are **“atheists”** (twice that of previous generations).
 4. Just **10%** of Christian youth are **“Resilient Disciples.”**
- F. Overview of two sessions:
 1. Identify a worldview: diagnose it. (This session)
 2. Evaluate a worldview: defeat it. (Next session)

I. SECULAR HUMANISM

- A. Emphasis: No God, but optimistic – based on **REASON** and **SCIENCE**.
- B. Symbol: **HAPPY** face.
- C. Object illustration: **LEGOS**.
- D. Examples: Richard Dawkins; Bill Nye the science guy; Sam Harris; Neil deGrasse Tyson and the “Cosmos” TV series.
- E. Biblical Connections: Hosea 12:6; Mark 10:23-25; Acts 17 Epicurean philosophers; Luke 12:15-23; Luke 15:11-14; Matt. 16:26; Phil. 3:18-19; Isa. 5:21.

II. NIHILISM

- A. Emphasis: No God, and pessimistic – **NOTHING** matters.
- B. Symbol: **FROWNY** face.
- C. Object illustration: **TOILET** .
- D. Examples: Friedrich Nietzsche; Kurt Cobain; Columbine shooters.
- E. Biblical Connections: Rom. 1:28-31; Eccl. 2:10-11; 3:18-20.

III. EXISTENTIALISM

- A. Emphasis: No God, but optimistic – based on **FEELING** and **FREEDOM** .
- B. Symbol: **FROWNY** face **AND** **SMILEY** face.
- C. Object Illustration: **MR.** **POTATO** **HEAD.**
- D. Examples: Jean-Paul Sartre; Albert Camus; many teenagers.
- E. Biblical Connections: Phil. 3:17-21; 1 Pet. 4:1-5.

IV. POSTMODERNISM

- A. Emphasis: Truth depends on your **PERSPECTIVE** and is totally RELATIVE.
- B. Symbol: TWO **FACES** looking at each other.
- C. Object Illustration: **SUNGLASSES** .
- D. Examples: *Matrix*; *Inception*; *WandaVision*; Jean-Francois Lyotard.
- E. Biblical Connections: Deut. 12:8; Isa. 5:20.

V. DEISM

- A. Emphasis: God creates but does **NOTHING** in the universe.
- B. Symbol: **CLOSED** **Box around a circle.**
- C. Object Illustration: **GRANDFATHER** **CLOCK.**
- D. Examples: Thomas Jefferson; William Paine; American teens and their “moral therapeutic deism” (see Christian Smith, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*).
- E. Biblical Connections: 2 Tim. 3:5; Matt. 22:29; 1 Cor. 2:4-5.

VI. NEW AGE PANTHEISM

- A. Emphasis: Experience _____ **ONENESS** _____ with God (= the universe).
- B. Symbol: _____ **CIRCLE** _____ **inside triangle**.
- C. Object Illustration: _____ **YIN** _____ **YANG** _____.
- D. Examples: Hinduism, Buddhism, Wicca, Star Wars; Deepak Chopra; *Lion King*.
- E. Biblical Connections: Genesis 3 (the serpent and Adam/Eve); Acts 17 Stoic philosophers.

VII. BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

- A. **Emphasis: CSI:**
Personal _____ **CREATOR** _____,
Loving _____ **SAVIOR** _____,
God _____ **INCARNATE** _____.
- B. Symbol: **TRIANGLE** _____ **PENETRATING** _____
CIRCLE.
- C. Object Illustration: _____ **HEART** _____.
- D. Biblical Christianity: Historic teachings of “THE faith” (Jude 1:3; 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:15-23; 2:7; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 4:1-2; 6:12, 20-21)
- E. **VS. “Progressive” Christianity:** Reinterpret Scripture to adapt to modern beliefs and values. (Warnings against: Matt. 7:15; 24:11; 2 Peter 2:1-2; Jude 1:4)
 - 1. God: Stresses God’s *love (grace)* over *truth*.
 - 2. Salvation: Jesus is not really the *only way*.
 - 3. The Bible: Contains many inaccuracies.
 - 4. Morality: Biblical morality is outdated (e.g., sex and sexual identity).

Reflection and Discussion on “Identifying a Worldview”

Use your session notes and other resources to reflect on, and discuss, the following.

1. What is a highlight or a big idea you took from this session?
2. Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27, and Matthew 22:37 all say that we should love God with all of our *mind*. What are some ways in which you can love God more with your mind?
3. Do (or review) the worldview matching “test” (with symbols, names, and objects). (A separate sheet may be provided for this.) Do you have any questions or any confusion about connecting the name of the worldview with the correct symbol and object? Explain.
4. Reflect on the major worldviews covered. (See the table below.) Try to identify the name of the worldview represented in the following statements. Discuss *why* that’s the worldview you chose.

Secular Humanism	Deism
Nihilism	New Age Pantheism
Existentialism	Biblical Christianity
Postmodernism	

- a. “I don’t really care about life. It’s meaningless anyway.”
 - b. “Don’t worry about trying to get answers about life. Just enjoy yourself.”
 - c. “There are many different paths to spiritual enlightenment. I do yoga to help me.”
 - d. “I believe in science, not religion.”
 - e. “God may be powerful, but He never really does anything, especially in my life.”
 - f. “I’m pretty skeptical about everything. Nothing is really true for everyone.”
5. As a group, come up with some questions you could ask others to determine what their worldview seems to be.
 6. Think of TWO non-Christians you know personally and try to identify their worldview.
 - a. Spend a couple of minutes thinking about this yourself.
 - b. Without using names, choose one person you know who does NOT have a Christian worldview and discuss what that person’s primary worldview seems to be.
 7. Think of some famous people, movies, videos, music, books, video games, etc., and try to identify their worldview.
 - a. Spend a couple of minutes by yourself listing TWO examples and trying to identify their worldview.
 - b. Share your examples with the group and have some discussion over your ideas.
 8. What question(s) do you have about what was covered? (These can be discussed in your small group, but they might also be addressed in a follow-up session or by the final Q&A panel.)