

“Worldview Options Today”

Worldview Camp – Pine Haven Christian Assembly
Event Webpage: <https://richknopp.com/worldviewcamp24/>

Richard Knopp, MA, MDiv, PhD
Executive Director, Room For Doubt (www.roomfordoubt.com)

Website: www.richknopp.com
Email: Rich@RoomForDoubt.com

Introduction

- A. Why do people “see” different things when they look at the same thing?
- B. **“WORLDVIEW”**
 1. **A worldview:** “The basic beliefs that one presumes or thinks to be true about life’s _____ questions.”
 2. Gives the **big picture** to interpret the world.
- C. **BIG worldview questions:**
 1. God (e.g. Is there a God? If yes, what kind of God/god?)
 2. Universe (e.g. Is it eternal? Did it begin at some point? How?)
 3. Life (e.g. Where did life come from? How?)
 4. Humans (e.g. Where did we come from? Why are we here? Is there real meaning? What does it mean to be “human”?)
 5. Ethics (e.g. How should we live? What is right and wrong? How do we determine what’s right or wrong?)
 6. Knowledge (e.g., What can we know? How can we know?)
 7. Death (e.g. The end? Reincarnation? Divine judgment?)
- D. Different worldview **answers**.
- E. Key Scriptures:
 1. **Col. 2:8** “Don’t be taken _____.”
 2. **I Peter 5:8** “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the _____ prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (cf. Eph. 6:11)
- F. Memory tools for each worldview.
 1. An acronym (for basic ideas)
 2. A symbol
 3. An object illustration
 4. A motto
 5. A worldview “test”

I. **SECULAR HUMANISM** (Modernism)

- A. Acronym:
 1. **N** _____
 2. **O** _____
 3. **S** _____
 4. **E** _____
- B. Symbol: _____ face.
- C. Object illustration: _____.

- D. Motto: “We can _____ it—without God.”
- E. Examples: Richard Dawkins; Bill Nye the science guy; Sam Harris; Neil deGrasse Tyson; John Dewey; Francis Crick; B. F. Skinner; humans in *Avatar*; *The Titanic*.
- F. 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 (*nihil* = Latin for “nothing”)

- A. Acronym:
 - 1. **N** _____
 - 2. **A** _____
 - 3. **P** _____
- B. Symbol: _____ face.
- C. Object illustration: _____.
- D. Motto: “_____ matters.”
- E. Examples: Friedrich Nietzsche; Kurt Cobain; Columbine shooters.
- F. Biblical Connections: Rom. 1:28-31; Eccl. 2:10-11; 3:18-20.

III. EXISTENTIALISM

- A. Acronym:
 - 1. **F** _____, _____, and _____.
 - 2. **A** _____ existence.
 - 3. **D** _____ yourself.
- B. Symbol: _____ **face AND a** _____ **face.**
- C. **Object Illustration:** MR. _____ HEAD.
- D. Motto: “Be _____ and have _____.”
- E. Examples: Jean-Paul Sartre; Albert Camus; the character “Jack” in the movie *Titanic*; *Groundhog Day*; *Dead Poets’ Society* (*carpe deum*), many teenagers.
- F. Biblical Connections: Phil. 3:17-21; 1 Pet. 4:1-5.

IV. POSTMODERNISM

- A. Acronym:
 - 1. **F** _____
 - 2. **U** _____
 - 3. **R** _____
- B. Symbol: Two _____ looking at each other.
- C. Object Illustration: _____.
- D. Motto: "Truth depends on your _____."
- E. Examples: *Matrix*; *Inception*; *WandaVision*; Jean-Francois Lyotard.
- F. Biblical Connections: Deut. 12:8; Isa. 5:20.

V. DEISM (*deus* = Latin for "God")

- A. Acronym:
 - 1. **C** _____ God.
 - 2. **A** _____ God.
 - 3. **N** _____ miracles.
 - 4. **T** _____ only.
- B. Symbol: _____ box around a circle.
- C. Object Illustration: _____ clock.
- D. Motto: "God is not _____."
- E. Examples: Thomas Jefferson; William Paine; American teens with "Moral Therapeutic Deism" (see Christian Smith, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*).
- F. Biblical Connections: 2 Tim. 3:5; Matt. 22:29; 1 Cor. 2:4-5.

VI. NEW AGE PANTHEISM (Cosmic Spiritualism)

- A. Acronym:
 - 1. **A** _____ is God.
 - 2. **C** _____ with the universe.
 - 3. **E** Pursue _____.

- B. Symbol: _____ **inside triangle.**
- C. Object Illustration: _____.
- D. Motto: “Become _____ with the One.”
- E. Examples: Hinduism, Buddhism, Wicca, Deepak Chopra; the Dalai Lama; use of crystals, chants, yoga, and meditation; *Star Wars*; *Lion King*; the Na’vi in *Avatar*.
- F. Biblical Connections: Genesis 3 (the serpent and Adam/Eve); Acts 17 Stoic philosophers.

VII. BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

- A. **Acronym:**
 - 1. **C** Mighty _____.
 - 2. **S** Loving _____.
 - 3. **I** _____ God
- B. Symbol: **TRIANGLE** _____ **CIRCLE.**
- C. Object Illustration: _____.
- D. Motto: “God _____ you.”
- E. 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)
- F. **VS. “Progressive Christianity”:** Reinterpret Scripture to adapt to modern beliefs and values. (Warnings against false prophets: Matt. 7:15; 24:11; 2 Peter 2:1-2; Jude 1:4)
 - 1. God: Stresses God’s *love (grace)* over *truth (justice)*.
 - 2. Salvation: Jesus is not really the *only way*.
 - 3. The Bible: Contains many inaccuracies.
 - 4. Morality: The Bible’s morality is outdated (e.g., sex and sexual identity).
- G. **VS. “Christian Nationalism”**
 - 1. Some principles.
 - 2. Some biblically-based responses.