

What is a worldview?

- Most basic, comprehensive, foundational beliefs about the world/reality; set of beliefs that are foundational and formative for human thinking and life.
 - Lens through which you view or interpret all of reality
- Metanarrative; Story about the Universe/Reality's Purpose/Meaning
 - The Bible claims to be reality
- Every Worldview speaks to how man relates to:
 - God, Man, and the World
 - Competing stories about how to define truth, morality/justice, God, humanity, reality or how to answer the questions they raise
 - *What does it mean to be truly human?*

2 Competing Stories for us living in the 21st Century

The Biblical Story

Creation (Gen 1-2)

- Creator/creature distinction
 - Necessary/contingent
 - Creation's reference point is the Creator
- Goodness of Creation
 - Uniformity of Nature is by the hand of the Sovereign Creator
- Trajectory toward something even better (Historical Progress)
 - The Creator has a historical plan of progress
 - Cultural Mandate (Gen 1:28) (fill the earth, rule it, guard it keep it)
- Image of God (Story of what it means to be truly human) (Gen 1:26)
 - We are not the focal point of ultimate reality

- Subordination to Creator
 - Relationship of dependence and service
- We were created to glorify God by filling the earth with His glorious image and to rule over it as His representatives

- Good/Justice: that which is in accordance with God
- Necessity of Special Revelation (Gen 2:16-17)

Fall (Gen 3)

- Distortion of Creator/creature distinction (Rom 1:18-25)
- Pervasive effects of sin/curse on all creation (Gen 3:17; Rom 8:22)
- Trajectory of Historical Progress threatened
- Image of God Tainted
- Cultural Mandate Failure
- Evil/Injustice: that which is in opposition to God
- Necessity of Special Revelation

Redemption (Gen 3:15 – Rev 22:21)

- Restoration of Creator/creature distinction through covenant
- Hope of reversal of the curse on creation (Gal 3:13)
- Trajectory of Historical Progress (An Alternate Route)
- Image of God Restored by the Image of the Invisible God (Col 1:15; Eph 4:22-24)
- Cultural Mandate Accomplished by the True Human (Matt 28:18; Rev 1:5)
- Evil/Injustice: Defeated and swallowed up in victory
- Necessity of Special Revelation = Jesus (Heb 1:1-3)

Hero = God

Narrative: God CREATED world, Man FELL by rebelling and the creation was cursed, yet the Creator became like

the creature to REDEEM fallen creation, through covenant, for His glory and for the creation's good.

Values: Sovereignty and Authority of God (God = measure of all things)

- Certainty in God and His Word (Revelation)
- Faith in God
- Leads to humble dependence

The Western Story

Classical (6th BC – 5th AD)

- Plato, Aristotle, Protagoras
- Attempts to explain the world *without* myth or divine authority
- Growing confidence in unaided/autonomous human reason
- “Man is the measure of all things.” (no truth/reality, but that which man deems to be true)

Medieval (5th-13th)

- Constantine, Augustine, Aquinas
- Christendom and dominance of the Church
 - Churchly Authoritarian monopoly on truth/reality
 - Priority and emphasis given to the heavenly/spiritual
 - Example: cathedrals
- Aquinas: christian aristotelianism
 - Reason* and sense experience* of nature

Renaissance & Reformation (15-16th)

- Renaissance: Italian secular humanists react to the totalitarianism of the Roman Catholic Church; anti-Christian
- Reformers: Calvin, Luther
 - 2 interpretations:

- anti-authoritarian
- pro-Scripture

Scientific Revolution/Enlightenment/Modernity (16th – 20th)

- Copernicus/Kepler, Newton, Bacon, Descartes
- Faith in: progress, reason, technology, orderliness of the world
- Freedom from the Authoritarianism of the Church
- Religion relegated to the private realm; not fit for public

Hero = Man

Postmodern

- Poverty; environmental degradation; proliferation of weapons; psychological problems; social/economic problems
- Derrida/Foucault
 - Critique of metanarratives; postfoundational; the modernists skepticism drawn to its fullest extent
 - No center/anchor, meaning, purpose
- Result: Consumerism
 - The need to distinguish ourselves; search for identity*
 - Freedom becomes ultimate
 - Defined as individual choice for private life
 - Needs are unlimited and insatiable

Narrative of progress that says we are moving toward greater freedom and prosperity, and that we are doing so through human effort, by applying science and technology to social, economic, political, educational spheres of life.

Values: Sovereignty and Authority of Man (Man = measure of all things)

- Certainty through sense experience and reason
- Faith in man
- Leads to skepticism

Which Story is the True Story?

- How do you know?
- Question of Authority
- Who gets to define what? What is the Standard?
 - Freedom, Love, Marriage, Sex, Morality/Justice, God
 - What is truth?
 - Only that which can be scientifically proven?
 - What is proof?
 - The notion of “Proof” is limited
 - How do you prove that something is a proof?
 - When should we demand proof?
 - When something is against common sense? Who says what common sense is?
- We need an external authority to tell us what is true.
- The myth of neutrality. All of Creation is God-biased.
 - Brute Fact?
 - All facts must be interpreted
 - Who has the authority to rightly interpret facts?
- Always comes back to an *External* Authority to interpret reality.

- The Western Story is an internal authority that can't transcend or get behind what a fact is. It takes facts for granted.
- The Biblical Story is able to explain what a fact is.
- If we don't accept the Biblical Story that God is the ultimate reference point of all reality, then Chance is.

Which of These 2 Stories is Closer to Your Worldview?

- What shapes your reality and how you view the world?
- God (the biblical story)? Or your experiences and the use of your reason (the western story)?
- Have your experiences ever failed or deceived you? Cause/Effect
 - Universal principle?: Every effect must have a cause
 - Take for granted?
 - Measure of faith, which your experience *then* confirms
- Have you ever reasoned wrongly or incorrectly? Math problems
 - Reason is merely a tool, wielded by sinful, fallen, and imperfect human beings
- Which Story do you live in? Whose authority will you trust?

Practical Applications:

- Signs you've been influenced by the Western Story
 - “God doesn't exist.”
 - Subtext: You cannot scientifically prove His existence.

- WRONG! Can you even scientifically prove science? Necessity of worldview
- “They aren’t Christians, so why hold them to the Bible’s standards?”
 - subtext: Bible’s standards (aka Christ’s Lordship) only apply to those who *voluntarily* submit to them.
 - WRONG! All people are in relationship to God, whether they know it or not. (Under wrath or under grace)
- “Christian’s should not vote in such a way that imposes Biblical standards on the government”
 - subtext: Separation of church and state means that God’s revelation and standards only apply in the church, and not in the public.
 - WRONG! SOMEONE’s Morality will be imposed on the government, shouldn’t it be God’s since He is the reference point for all reality?
- “People should be free to do whatever they want as long as it doesn’t hurt anybody”
 - subtext: Freedom is ultimate. Freedom is allowing people to do whatever they desire. What it means to “hurt” someone is universally agreed upon.
 - WRONG! True freedom is being able to not sin. True freedom is being a perfected Son of God

- “We can’t know anything for certain...We can’t know God exists”
 - Subtext: There is no absolute truth. Certainty of knowledge is futile.
 - WRONG! Are you certain that you can’t be certain?
- “That’s good for you, and this is good for me”
 - Subtext: Good is relative.
 - WRONG! Is this statement good/trustworthy?

The Superiority of the Christian Worldview

What do you believe about _____ and how do you know?

God: Pantheism (pagan; ancient religions); Deism (Islam); Atheism (Modernist); Agnostic (Postmodernist) Theism

Knowledge: How do you know you know? Where does knowledge come from? Inductive; Deductive

Truth: Is there absolute truth or not? What is absolute truth? Modernism; Postmodernism

Morality: Legalist; Antinomian

Politics: Conservative; Liberal

Sex: Sex is always bad; Sex is always good

Gender: Chauvinism; Feminism

How then Shall We Live?

STUDY THE BIBLE!!!