

“Worldviews”

Introduction: Lori’s story

The Importance of Worldview

- William James
- Richard Weaver
- G. K. Chesterton
- David Naugle

Definitions of Worldview

- Vision of the embodied heart – *kardi-optic*

Illustrations of Worldview

- Lenses/glasses
- Shades
- Umpires
- Compass

Standard Contemporary Worldviews

- Theism:
- Deism:
- Naturalism:
- Nihilism:
- Existentialism:
- Pantheism:
- Modernism:

- Postmodernism:

Resources:

- James Sire's book, *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*, 4th edition, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press.
- David Naugle, *Worldview: The History of a Concept*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

I. Contemporary Neo-paganism

Essential Tenets of Contemporary Neo-paganism

- All is one and interconnected
- All is God — Pantheism and Panentheism
- Humanity is God and there is a need for a radical transformation in self-understanding
- All religions are one, the value of pluralism and tolerance
- Cosmic evolutionary optimism
- Reincarnation

Types of Neo-paganism:

- Occultic neo-paganism
- Erotic neo-paganism
- Ecologic neo-paganism
- Techno neo-paganism
- Biologic neo-paganism
- Eclectic neo-paganism

Implications of Contemporary Neo-paganism

- Atheism is dead
- Theism is dead

Resources:

- Michael York: *Pagan Theology: Paganism As a World Religion*. New York University Press, 2003.
- James A. Herrick, *The Making of the New Spirituality: The Eclipse of the Western Religious Tradition*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003

II. Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

- A God exists who created and orders the world and watches over human life on earth.
- God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem. God as cosmic butler
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

Resources:

- Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

III. Biblical/Christian Worldview

Essential tenets of Christian Theism

- Trinitarian God as ultimate reality
- The created universe
- Humanity as God's image
- Capacity for knowledge divine and human
- Sin
- Redemption through Jesus Christ

- Death and the afterlife
- Ethics is based God's character
- History as linear

Christian worldview as biblical narrative:

- Creation: where am I? who am I? why am I?
- Fall (uncreation): what's gone wrong?
- Redemption (new creation): what's the remedy?

Resources:

- Brian Walsh and Richard Middleton, *The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 1984.
- Albert Wolters, *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

Applications:

- Understand the concept of worldview and its life and world shaping power.
- Familiarize yourself with standard contemporary worldviews.
- Pay close attention to contemporary neo-pagan and moralistic therapeutic deism
- Understand the essential tenets of a Christian/biblical worldview, especially its narrative themes of creation, fall, and redemption
- Seek to live out a Christian/biblical worldview faithfully in every area of your life, seize opportunities to teach a Christian/biblical worldview to others inside the church, and share it missionally with others.

Conclusion: Lori's story again...

Switchfoot, "Meant to Live"

Fumbling his confidence
 And wond'ring why the world has passed him by
 Hoping that he's meant for more than arguments

And failed attempts to fly, fly

We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside
Somewhere we live inside
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside

Dreaming about providence
And whether mice or men have second tries
Maybe we've been livin with our eyes half open
Maybe we're bent and broken, broken

We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside
Somewhere we live inside
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside

We want more than this world's got to offer
We want more than this world's got to offer
We want more than the wars of our fathers
And everything inside screams for second life

We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
We were meant to live
We were meant to live