

A WORLD VIEW

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan ©1993

Introduction: Every has a theology or a religion. In a newspaper article titled, “Muzzled: Atheist Bookstore Ordered Closed; X-Rated Bible sealed owner's fate” reported owner Bill Talley responding, “I don't think (the zoning official) liked my theology. And I don't think the neighbors like my theology.”

(“Muzzled: Atheist Bookstore Ordered Closed; X-Rated Bible sealed owner's fate,” by Michael Romano, Rocky Mountain News, March 19, 1986, page 8).

One's theology is their basic “center” of their life that governs the way they view life. This is often called a world view. “A world view has been compared to a pair of glasses through which we see the world. Without these glasses, the world would appear as an unfocused, meaningless blob. The glasses not only allow us to see, but to make sense out of what we see.”

(Making Sense Of Your World From A Biblical Viewpoint, By W. Gary Phillips and William E. Brown, Chicago: Moody, 1991, page 26).

“The right eyeglasses can put the world into clearer focus, and the correct world view can function in much the same way.”

(World's In Conflict, By Ronald Nash, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. page 17).

We use our world view to judge the realities of life.

1. WHAT IS A WORLD VIEW?

A. From a professor

“In simplest terms, a world view is a set of beliefs about the most important issues in life.”

(World Views In Conflict, By Ronald H. Nash, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992, page 16).#

B. From a theologian

“The central systematization of concepts of reality to which the members of the culture assent (largely unconsciously) and from which stems their value system.”

(Christianity In Culture, By Charles Kraft, Maryknoll: Orbis, 1979, page 53, as cited in, Phillips and William E. Brown, Chicago: Moody, 1991, page 29).

C. From a philosopher

“A people's world view is their way of thinking about life and the world, coupled with the values they set for themselves in the context of that way of thinking.”

(Philosopher Nicholas Wolterstoff as cited in, Phillips and Brown, page 29).

D. From a biologist

“A comprehensive framework of beliefs that helps us to interpret what we see and experience and also gives us direction in the choices that we make as we live out our days.”

(Biology Through The Eyes Of Faith, By Richard T. Wright, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989, page 247, cited in, Phillips and Brown, page 29).

E. From pastor/college president

“A world view is, first of all, an explanation and interpretation of the world, and second, an application of this view to life.”

(Phillips and Brown, page 29).

2. DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

A. A Christian world view is more than Salvation.

“Christianity is not simply a religion that tells human beings how they may be forgiven. It is a total world- and life-view.”

(Faith And Reason, By Ronald Nash, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988, page 39).

B. A Christian world view is more than a detailed system.

“Instead of thinking of Christianity as a collection of theological bits and pieces to be believed or debated, we should approach our faith as a conceptual system, as a total world-and-life view.”

(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 19).

C. A Christian world view is more than human reason.

My values, plans, and decisions are informed by, even prescribed by, the world view perspective given by the Scriptures.”

(Phillips and Brown, page 18).

Note: What is at the center of your world view? (Wagon wheel diagram)

3. DEFENDING THE FAITH WITH A WORLD VIEW

A. Everyone has a weak point in their system, so find it.

“Every world view has questions it appears unable to answer satisfactorily.”

(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 20).

B. Everyone has a world view, so expose it.

“Once Christians understand in a systematic way how the options to Christianity are also world views, they will be in a better position to justify their choice of Christianity rationally.”

(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 20).

C. Everyone has utilized philosophy, so challenge it.

“Because so many elements of a world view are philosophical in nature, it is vital that Christians become more conscious of the importance of philosophy. Though philosophy and religion often use different language and often arrive at different conclusions, they deal with the same questions, which include questions about what exists (metaphysics = what is reality), how humans should live (ethics = what is right), and how humans beings know (epistemology = how do you know).”

(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 21).

Note: You can not lead someone to Christ simply arguing world views or presenting a Christian world view:

1. Unsaved man can not understand it, 1 Corinthians 2:14,
2. We are to present the gospel message, Romans 10:14-17, and
3. A basis can be built for the presentation of the gospel through dealing with world views.

4. CAUTION IN DEALING WITH WORLD VIEWS

A. World views contain ideals.

“A persona's world view may also contain a set of ideals that lays out how he or she thinks things should be. These ideals produce a gap between the way things are and the way they ought to be.”
(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 31).

B. World views contain human rational.

“A well-formed world view may also contain an explanation for the disparity between the way things are and they way they ought to be.”
(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 31).

C. World views contain individual preferences.

“Many disagreements among individuals, societies, and nations are clashes of competing world views.... The reason many people reject our faith is not due to their problems with one or two isolated issues; it is the result of their anti-Christian conceptual scheme, which leads them to reject information and arguments that for believers provide support for the Christian world view.”
(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 18,20).

Note: an example of relating two circles to each other.

Conclusion: “Our important task is to equip ourselves so that we are able to show detractors that the Christian world view is superior rationally, morally, and existentially to any alternative system.”
(World's In Conflict, Nash, page 20-21).

“As a child is usually focused on his own needs and desires, so many Christians brandish a commitment to a biblical world view that goes little beyond their personal well-being. We cannot make sense of adult life with the mental equipment of a child. We cannot afford to carry into adult life a Christian consciousness so undernourished and anemic that we slide into accepting faddish convenience recipes for worldly well-being as our daily diet. If a superficial knowledge of a biblical world view continues to dominate the evangelical community, we cannot expect that community to stand unblemished against the onslaught of other world view choices,”
(Phillips and Brown, page 22).