

Cracking the Code:

Understanding Our World
Through the Christian
Worldview

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Picture a world where justice, freedom, and equality are not just ideals but lived realities for all. Have you ever wondered where this deep yearning for a better world comes from?



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Why do bad things happen to good people?

Why do good things happen to bad people?

Questions like...

Why am I here?

Where did I come from?

What is all this for?

When will things be right?

All important questions to ask.

“ The unexamined life is not worth living.”

Socrates, Greek philosopher

"Give careful thought to the paths for your feet."

Proverbs 4:26

What is a Worldview?

- A worldview shapes how we understand the world.
- "If you want to know what water is, don't ask the fish." (Chinese proverb)
- We often don't reflect on our environment until it is challenged.



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The Default Worldview is Secular

- Our culture is shaped by a secular worldview.
- Christians are in a spiritual battle for truth.
- We need a Christian worldview that applies to all areas of life.



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The Christian worldview sees and understands God the Creator and His creation - i.e., man and the world - **primarily** through the lens of God's special revelation, the Holy Scriptures, and **secondarily** through God's natural revelation in creation as interpreted by human reason and reconciled by and with Scripture, for the purpose of believing and behaving in accord with God's will and, thereby, glorifying God with one's mind and life, both now and in eternity.

The Reality of a Christian Worldview

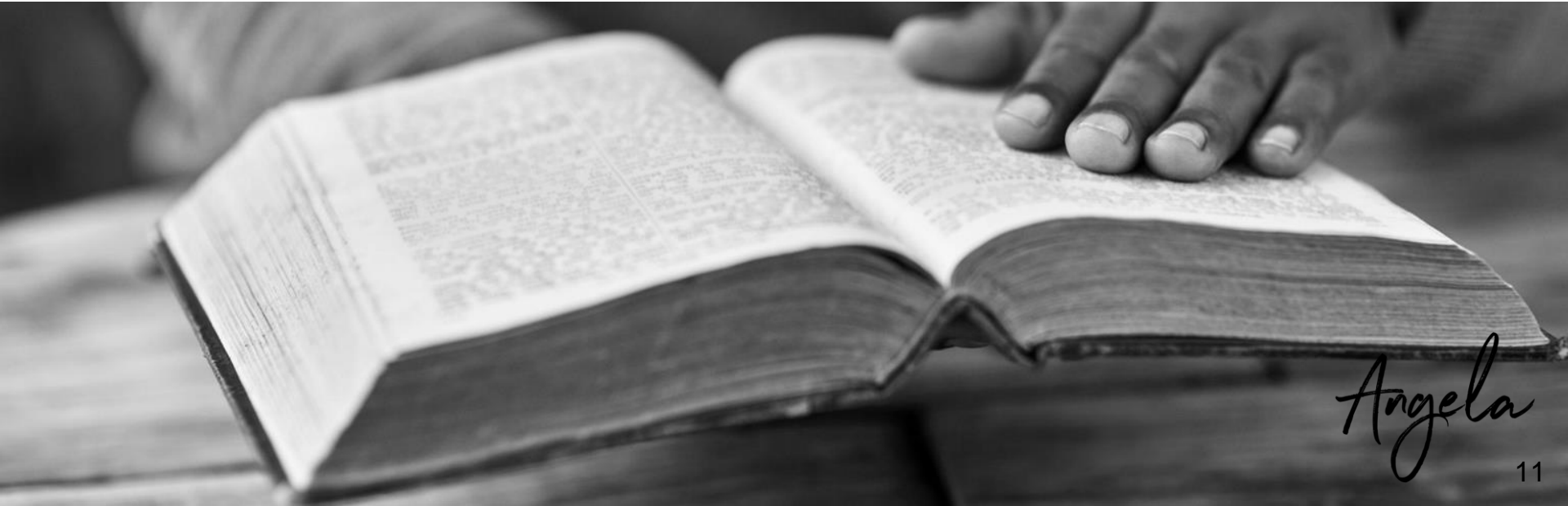
- A Christian worldview is a comprehensive life system, not just personal faith.
- It answers life's biggest questions.



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Distinguishing a Christian Worldview

- A Christian worldview is unified and coherent.
- It applies to every sphere of life: science, law, art, and more.

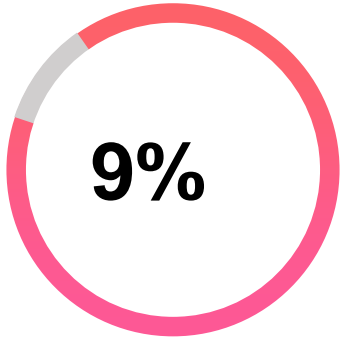


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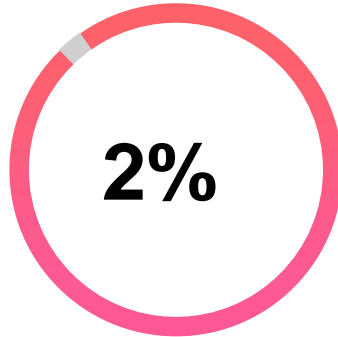
People function on the basis of their worldview more consistently than even they themselves may realize. The problem is not outward things. The problem is having, and then acting upon, the right worldview – the worldview which gives men and women the truth of what is.

Francis Schaeffer, Complete Works, Volume 5, 252.

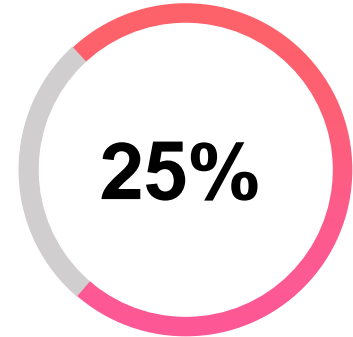
Statistics on Biblical Worldview



of born-again
Christians have a
biblical worldview.



of born-again
teenagers have a
biblical worldview.



of born-again
Christians make
moral and ethical
decisions based on
the Bible.

Characteristics of a Biblical Worldview

- Moral decisions based on God's word
- Absolute moral truth
- God's rule over the universe
- Existence of Satan
- Jesus' sinless life
- Salvation not earned by works
- Responsibility to share faith
- Accuracy of the Bible



Key Questions of a Christian Worldview

- Where did we come from?
 - Origin
- Why are we here?
 - Meaning
- What has gone wrong with the world?
 - Morality
- What is the solution?
 - Destiny



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Origin: It starts with God.

- “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen 1:1)
- We believe in God the Father, maker of heaven and earth (the Apostle’s Creed), that God holds all things together (Col 1:15-18), all true knowledge flows from the one true Creator to His creation.
- We believe that God is personal and differentiated from other beings, from nature, and from the universe.
- God has eternally existed and is the source of all good. God is set apart and transcends all of His creation.

Origin: Our God is Sovereign

- Creation
 - God created all things: the physical universe and all its creatures.
 - God created heaven and angels.
 - Angels can influence events in our physical world. Such causes are beyond scientific explanation.
- Providence
 - After creation, God sustains and governs His creation according to His will.
 - Since God created natural laws, He can change these at will. Natural laws (i.e. law of thermodynamics, law of gravity) as well as miracles (i.e. supernatural manifestation, healings, signs and wonders) are from God.

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

Genesis 8:22

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by **miracles, wonders and signs**, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.”

Acts 2:22

Meaning: Why are we here? God's Purpose for Humanity

- Relationship with God: We are created to know and connect with God personally.
- Love and Service: We are called to love others and serve, following Jesus' example.
- Stewardship of Creation: We have a responsibility to care for the earth and its inhabitants.
- Fulfillment of God's Plan: Each person has a unique purpose within God's larger plan.
- Eternal Life: Our lives are part of a greater narrative that continues beyond this life through faith in Jesus.

“God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.”

Acts 17:27

Meaning: Why are we here? God's Purpose for Humanity

- God created us in His image. (Gen 1:27) Because men and women are created in the image of God, we possess spirituality, rationality, and personality.
- Human beings are the highest form of God's earthly creation. (Ps 8:5)
- Man is the crown of creation. The image of God consisted of true knowledge (Col 3:10), righteousness and holiness (Eph 4).
- We have the ability to relate to God and other humans. (Ecc 3:11)
- We have the ability to think and ponder, and express humor, irony, and even sarcasm, unlike any other part of creation.
- We have been given *free will* (Gen 2:17) and are called by God to righteously exercise dominion over the earth and the animals. (Gen 1:26)

Meaning: Why are we here? God's Glorious Plan

- “The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” - Westminster Catechism
- “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.” (Mark 12:30)
- Cultural mandate: “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.” (Gen 1:17)
- Gospel mandate: “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15-18)
- Imitate Christ: Love and serve your neighbor and commune with the Father.

Two Presuppositions

- The eternal existence of the personal, transcendent, triune, Creator God
- The God of Scripture has revealed His character, purposes, and will in the infallible and inerrant pages of His special revelation, the Bible, which is superior to any other source of revelation or human reason alone



Created in the Image of God

- Humans are created in God's image, with rationality, morality, and personality.
- We are made to serve God and have dominion over the earth.



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“You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet.”

Psalm 8:4-5

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.”

1 Corinthians 10:31

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Morality: What has gone wrong? Creation, Fall, Restoration

- Original world created “very good” (Gen 1:31)
- Marred by sin, now operates in futility (Rom 8:23-25)
 - “For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.” (Rom 8:22)
- Will be gloriously renewed (2 Pet 3)
 - “And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Col 1:20)

Morality: What has gone wrong?

Creation, Fall, Restoration

- The ability to live in right relationship with God, others, nature and with our own selves has been corrupted.
- Because of sin, we are spiritually dead and alienated from God. (Eph 2:1–3)
- This does not mean that we are all as bad as we can be; just, none of us are as good as we should be. We are therefore unable to properly reflect the divine image and likeness of God.
- Adam and Eve's sin was not a moral lapse but a deliberate turning away from God. In disobedience, they died spiritually which ultimately brought spiritual death. (Gen 2:17)

Morality: What has gone wrong? Creation, Fall, Restoration

- Sin's entrance has brought about a sinful nature in humanity. We are not sinner because we sin; we sin because we are sinners. We think and act according to our fallen nature.
- Though we function as free moral agents, our decisions and actions are always affected by sin and human choices are negatively influenced by sin.
- A Christian worldview must wrestle with the problem of sin.
- No matter how noble or good we may be as viewed by society, we fall short of God's glory.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23

Morality: What has gone wrong? Creation, Fall, Restoration

- Christianity affirms that people can choose to good, but we must distinguish between the good and the ultimate good which is the goal of pleasing God.
- All of our sin has led us to be alienated from God and each other.

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

Jeremiah 17:9

Destiny: What is the solution? God's Glorious Plan

- History unfolds to God's plan, established before creation (Acts 4:28). "God accomplishes all things according to the counsel of His will" (Eph 1:11)
- The purpose of God's plan is to display His glory. "All the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Num 14:21)
- God's glory is the excellence of His being, shown in His power, wisdom, holiness, righteousness, wrath, justice, mercy, love...
- God displays His glory largely through His creation, image-bearers, providence, and redemptive acts.

Destiny: What is the solution? God's Glorious Plan

- The core of the Christian worldview is the foundational truth that Jesus Christ's life and death provided for sinners an atoning sacrifice that reconciles us to God when we receive Him.
- Jesus not only provided atonement, but also redemption.
- Jesus Christ has broken the power of sin, guilt, death, and Satan, bringing about a people who have been bought with a great price. (Col 2:15, 1 Pet 1:8-19)
- For those who have been redeemed by placing their faith in Him, they are reconciled to God.

“The rise of the Christian faith had a broad and lasting effect on how both God and humanity were understood. Earlier in Hesiod’s Theogony (7th-8th century B.C.) the desires of men and women were ascribed to the gods in a projection to the heavens that elevated both human pride and lust. Moreover, the strong syncretistic tendencies of Roman religion, as it appropriated key Greek insights and even whole gods into its own pantheon, fared little better. Whether of Greek or Roman origin, the gods so conceived were simply all too human. In other words, theology devolved, in a real sense, upon anthropology. Accordingly, the Theogony was a testament to how humanity was now being written in capital letters in which very troubled desires and lusts were attributed to the gods and therefore deemed some of the highest values of all. The crucifixion of Christ changed all of this. In fact, it toppled the tables of the projectionist money changers. The power of the cross led to a broad transformation of values in which meekness, lowliness and humility were no longer despised but now celebrated, yes celebrated! Indeed, first century Romans didn’t even have the proper vocabulary, the linguistic wherewithal, to express all that the early church meant by the simple word “humility.” “

Tom Holland

Destiny: What is the solution? God's Glorious Plan

- Believers in Christ do not stand under God's judgment. Our separation and brokenness created by sin has been restored and healed in Christ. God now accepts us and treats believers as children instead of transgressors.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ establishes Jesus' lordship and deity. His resurrection guarantees salvation of sinners (Rom 1:3-4; 4:24-25) and the resurrection provides new life for believers enabling them to see, think, and live a new life. (Rom 12:2)

Having a Christian worldview means being utterly convinced that biblical principles are not only true but also work better in the grit and grime of the real world.

Nancy Pearcey

Conclusion

- A Christian worldview gives us a sense of God's plan and purpose for the world.
- A Christian worldview is not escapism but rather brings a confidence and hope for the future.
- A Christian worldview helps stabilize life, serving as an anchor to link us to God's faithfulness and steadfastness.
- A Christian worldview provides a framework for ethical thinking.
- We recognize that humans that are made in the image of God are essentially moral beings and the best life of good, love, holiness, grace, and truth is in Jesus Christ.
- We see that history is not cyclical or random but a meaningful sequence of events leading to God's purposes for humanity. (Eph 1)
- God will bring history to His destiny and planned conclusion.

You must make your choice: either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

C.S. Lewis

Articles and websites

- Dockery, D. Union University: Shaping a Christian worldview. uu.edu
- www.Summit.org
- www.Womeninapologetics.com
- www.theChristianworldview.org
- www.solas-cpc.org

Books

- Schriviner, G. The Air We Breath
- Schaeffer, F. How should we then live? The rise and decline of Western thought and culture*.
- Guinness, O. (2013). Signals of transcendence: Listening to the promptings of life. InterVarsity Press.
- Guinness, O. (2004). The great quest: Invitation to an examined life and a sure path to meaning. InterVarsity Press.



CHRISTIANITY



ISLAM



SECULARISM



MARXISM



NEW
SPIRITUALITY



POSTMODERNISM

 THEOLOGY	Trinitarian Monotheism	Monotheism	Atheism	Atheism	Pantheism	Theological Suspicion
 PHILOSOPHY	Dualism	Dualism	Materialism & Naturalism	Dialectical Materialism	Spiritual Monism	Anti-Realism
 ETHICS	Agape	Divine Command Theory	Moral Relativism or Utilitarianism	Proletariat Morality	Karma	Cultural Relativism
 BIOLOGY	Special Creation	Special Creation	Neo-Darwinism	Punctuated Equilibrium	Spiritual Evolution	Anti-Essentialism
 PSYCHOLOGY	Mind/Body Dualism (Fallen)	Mind/Body Dualism (Unfallen)	Mind/Body Monism (Self-Actualization)	Mind/Body Monism (Classical Conditioning)	Mind/Body Monism (Fourth Force)	Decentered Self
 SOCIOLOGY	Sphere Sovereignty	Ummah	Personal Autonomy	Proletariat Society	Collective Consciousness	Social Constructionism
 LAW	Natural Law	Shariah Law	Legal Positivism	Proletariat Law	Self-Law	Critical Legal Studies
 POLITICS	Subsidiarity	Islamic Theocracy	Progressivism	Statism	Autarchy	Political Pessimism or Liberalism
 ECONOMICS	Biblical Stewardship	Shariah Economics	Economic Interventionism	Socialism	Universal Enlightened Production	Economic Interventionism
 HISTORY	Redemptive Narrative	Pan-Islam	Social Progress	Historical Materialism	Evolutionary Godhood	Historical Revisionism

Worldviews Through Other Lenses

Courtesy of summit.org

Thank you

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