

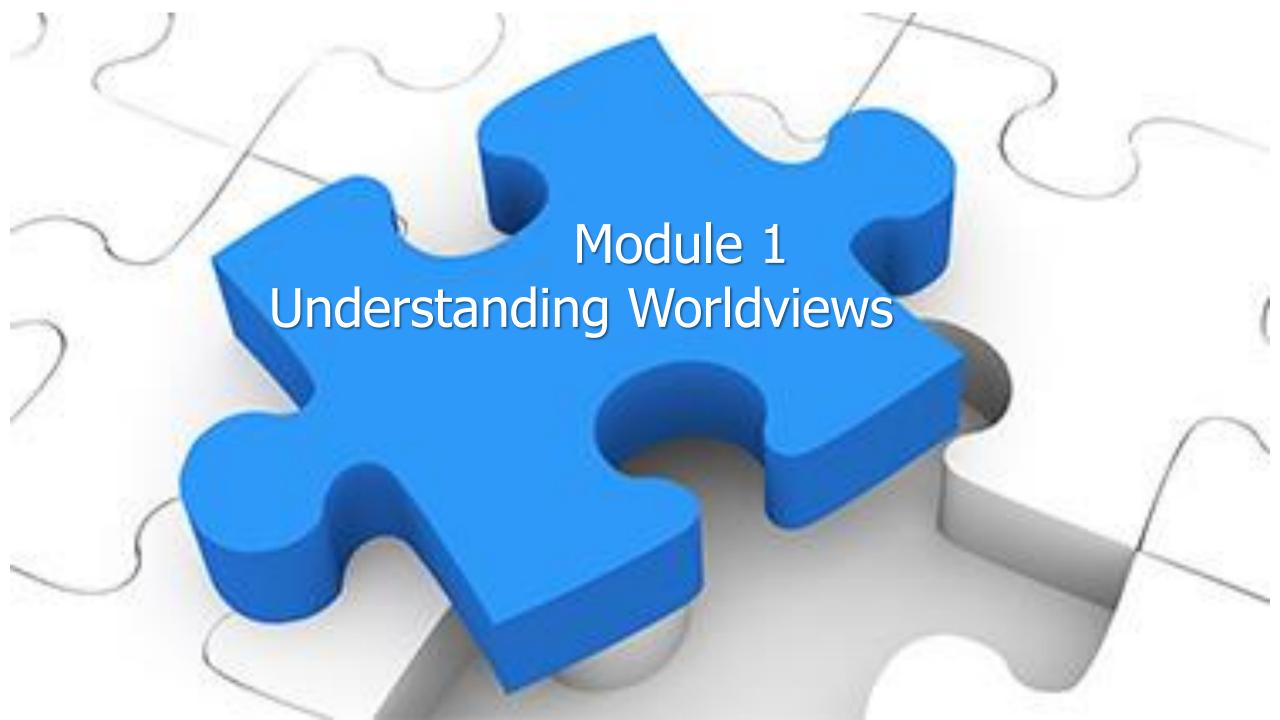
Modules 1 & 2

ELF Politics and Society Network
24 May 2022

Peter Saunders, CEO of ICMDA (International Christian Medical and Dental Association)

Course Objectives

- Personal training in 'Confident Christianity' ten weeks
- Twenty modules plus difficult questions
- Understand how to teach 'Confident Christianity' to others
- Small group interactions to reinforce teaching
- Exercise and questions with each module
- Opportunity for ongoing interaction in the future



What is a worldview?

World-view

- n. German Weltanschauung
- 1. The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.

2. A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.

Behavior How do I live?

Values

What is good and right?

Beliefs

What is true?

Worldview

What is REAL?

Six questions that determine a worldview

- 1. What is God? (theology)
- 2. What are human beings? (anthropology)
- 3. What is the best way to discover truth? (epistemology)
- 4. Why do human beings have significance? (value)
- 5. How do we decide what is right and wrong? (ethics)
- 6. What happens to a person at death? (afterlife)

The four major worldviews

- Pantheism Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age
- Polytheism Tribal religions, Animism, Folk Religion
- Theism Islam, Judaism, Christianity
- Atheism Naturalism, Existentialism, Nihilism

The four major worldviews

	Theism	Polytheism	Pantheism	Atheism
God	Personal Supreme Being	Multiple Gods - ?High God	Impersonal Life Force	Doesn't exist
Man	Made in God's image	Lower rational beings	Part of the totality of being	Clever Monkeys
Truth	Absolute, revealed by God	Grounded in tradition	Subjective, felt intuitively	Discovered
Value	Created by God	Place in hierarchy	Part of the totality of being	Arbitrary
Morality	In line with God's nature	Determined by the strongest	What feels natural	Arbitrary
Death	Judgment and heaven/hell	Enter spirit world	Reincarnation	Nothing

Exercise - Module 1

 What is the most common worldview in your cultural setting and why?

Discuss in plenary



Worldview distribution

	World	British medical students
Atheism	13%	65%
Pantheism	20%	5%
Polytheism	11%	0%
Theism	56%	30%

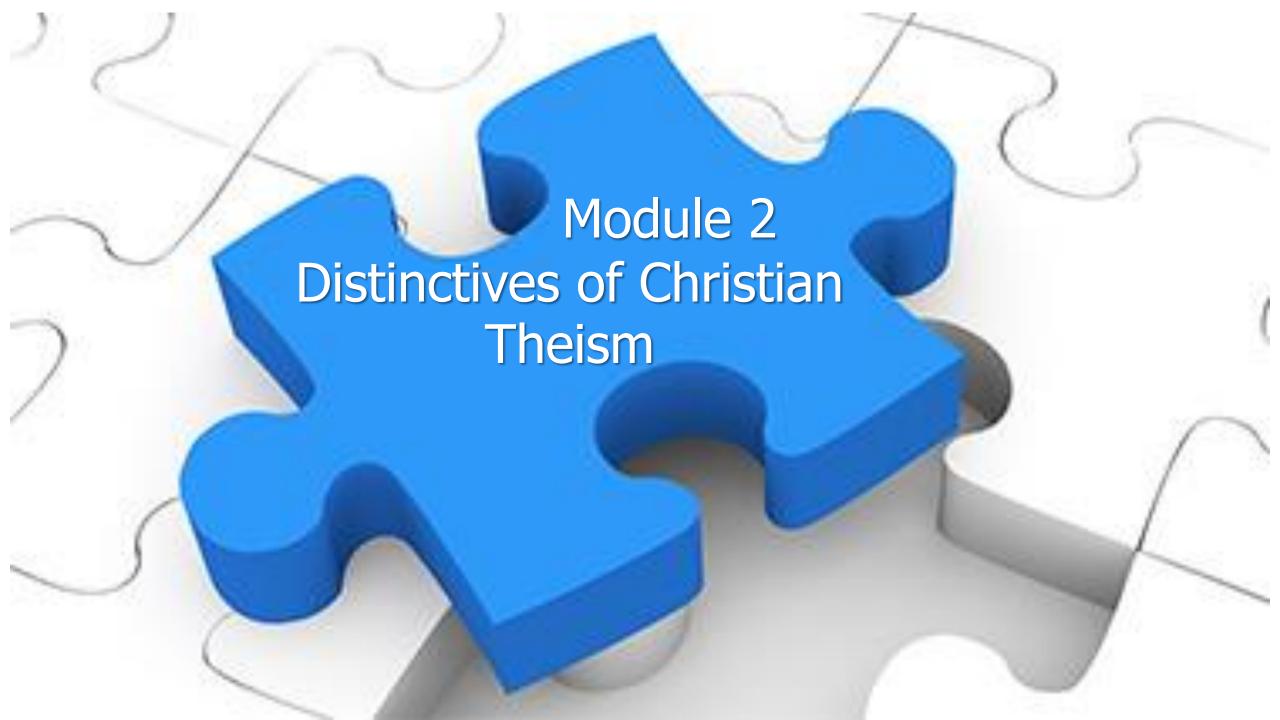
Worldview conclusions

- 1. There are at least four different worldviews
- 2. They are all held by intelligent, well-educated people
- 3. They are mutually exclusive
- 4. No more than one can be true
- 5. Many intelligent people hold to a worldview that is not actually true

Questions on Module 1

'Understanding Worldviews'





Exercise - Module 2

 What makes Christianity distinct from all other religions?

- Discuss in small groups
- Feedback in plenary



What makes Christian theism distinct?

- The authority of the Bible (Old and New Testaments)
- The divinity of Christ (and the Trinity)
- Christ as the only way of salvation
- The death and bodily resurrection of Jesus
- The centrality of the cross Christ's substitutionary death
- Salvation by grace through repentance and faith

The divinity of Jesus Christ

- John 1:1-2,18
- John 20:28
- Acts 20:28
- Romans 9:5
- Phil 2:6
- Titus 2:13
- Hebrews 1:8
- 2 Peter 1:1

The divinity of Jesus Christ

- He created the world (Jn 1:1,3, Hb 1:2, Col 1:16);
- He existed before his birth (Jn 1:1-3, 17:5);
- He claimed that he was the only way to God (Jn 14:6)
- He claimed to reveal the father (Jn 14:9)
- He claimed to be the 'son of God' (Lk 22:70)
- He called himself 'I AM' (Jn 6:35, 8:12,24,58, 11:25, 14:6,18:5);

The divinity of Jesus Christ

- He claimed to be one with God (Jn 14:8-10)
- He accepted worship (Mt 2:2, 28:17,Mk 5:33,Lk 24:52,Jn 9:38)
- He accepted the title LORD (Hebrew YHVH = Greek kyrios)
- He forgave sins (Mt 1:21, Mk 2:7-10, Lk 7:48, Acts 4:12, 5:31);
- He claimed that he would rise from the dead (Mk 8:31)
- He said he would return as judge (Mt 25, Mk 8:38,Jn 5:22-30)

Other religions/worldviews are counterfeits



Questions on Module 2

• 'Distinctives of Christian Theism'

