



Confident Christianity

- Modules 1 & 2

ELF Politics and Society Network

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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

A 3D blue puzzle piece is the central focus, set against a white background with faint grid lines and other puzzle pieces. The text is centered on the blue piece.

Module 1

Understanding Worldviews

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.



The image features a diamond-shaped iceberg floating in a dark blue ocean under a lighter blue sky with wispy clouds. The iceberg is divided into four horizontal sections. The top section is above the water line, while the other three are submerged. Each section contains a title and a question. The word 'Values' is highlighted in yellow, while the others are in white. The background is a gradient of blue, from light at the top to dark at the bottom.

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'



A 3D blue puzzle piece is the central focus, featuring the text 'Module 2 Distinctives of Christian Theism'. It is surrounded by other puzzle pieces, some of which are white with faint outlines, suggesting a larger assembly. The lighting creates soft shadows, giving the pieces a three-dimensional appearance.

Module 2
Distinctives of Christian
Theism

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'

