



CANCELLING CULTURE: ESTABLISHING BIBLICAL FILTERS FOR TODAY'S WORLD

Session 2- The Basics of a Biblical Worldview

WORLDVIEW: A DEFINITION

“A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of assumptions (which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) that we hold (consciously or subconsciously; consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality that provides the foundations on which we live and move and have our being.”- James Sire, *The Universe Next Door*, (2009, Fifth Ed., InterVarsity)



SEVEN BASIC QUESTIONS TO HELP LOCATE A WORLDVIEW

1. What is prime reality?
2. What is the nature of external reality?
3. What is a human?
4. What happens to a human at death?
5. Why can we know anything at all?
6. How do we know right from wrong?
7. What is the meaning of human history?

A BASIC CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- **Question 1- Prime reality is the infinite, personal God revealed in Scriptures: triune, immanent, omniscient, sovereign, and good.**
- Infinite-Ex. 3:14
- Personal-Jer. 29:11; Isa. 55:8
- Triune- Deut. 6:4; Ps. 86:10; 1 Tim. 1:17 and 2:5; Gen. 1:1-2 and 26-27; Isa. 48:16; Ps. 110:1; Matt. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 5:7-8
- Transcendent/Immanent- Heb. 1:3; Acts 17:27-29
- Omniscient- Rev. 13:8, 22:13; Prov. 15:3; Mic. 5:2
- Sovereign- Jer. 32:17, 27; Matt. 19:26; Rom. 9:18; Rev. 17:17
- Good- 1 John 1:5; John 3:16

A BASIC CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- **Question 2- External reality is the cosmos God created ex nihilo to operate with the uniformity of cause and effect in an open system**
- God created out of nothing- Gen 1:1; John 1:1-5
- God created with the uniformity of cause and effect in an open system- Isa. 45:18-19; Acts 17:28

A BASIC CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- **Question 3- Humans are created in the image of God and possess personality, self-transcendence, intelligence, morality, social capacity, and creativity but also have a fallen nature that must be redeemed.**
- Image of God- Gen. 1:26-27
- Fallen nature- Gen 3; Isa 53:6, Rom. 7

A BASIC CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- **Question 4- For a person, death is either a gate to another life with God and His people or a gate to another life of punishment based upon eternal separation from the only things ever truly fulfilling.**
- Gateway to life- Rev. 4-5, 20-22; Matt. 7:13-14
- Gateway to punishment- Rev. 21:11-15; Matt. 7:13-14

A BASIC CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- **Question 5- Humans can both know God Himself and the world around them because God gave them the capacity to know and He takes an active role in communicating with them.**
- We are “knowers”- John 1:1-4, 9; Gen. 1:26-27
- God aids in our knowing- Rom 1:19-20; Ps. 19:1-2
- **(Note: Word important here- Ps. 119; Deut. 6:4-8; 1 Tim. 3:16-17)**

A BASIC CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- **Question 6- Ethics is transcendent and based upon God's good, holy, and loving character.**
- **"...ethics, while very much a human domain, is ultimately the business of God. We are not the measure of morality. God is."**- Sire, 2009
- We must strive to be holy...-1 Pet. 1:16; Heb. 3:7-8, 15, 4:7
- ...knowing that we will fail, based upon our own weaknesses/desires...- James 1:12-15; Rom. 7
- ...dependent on God's goodness/grace to help us overcome our desires/sins.- Rom. 5, 8; 1 Cor. 15:45-49

A BASIC CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- **Question 7- History is a progressing, unfolding meaningful sequence of events leading to God's overall purpose for humanity.**
- *Telos*= purpose; meaning; intention; design
- History is not random but sequentially unfolding- Rom. 8:28; Heb. 9:27; John 1 (*logos*)
- History is meaningful/purposeful- Isa. 14:24-27; 2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 1:9-11, 3:9-11
- God's purpose will be accomplished- Isa. 46:11; Rev. 19-22

PRACTICING THE CRAFT

Decide what to do with the following situation based upon your biblical worldview:

Yoga has become an increasingly popular way to gain flexibility and exercise in the West over the last decade-plus. It is regularly recommended by doctors and physical therapists for patients recovering from injuries, to counter arthritis, and even just to relax and de-stress.

PRACTICING THE CRAFT

What is not known in the West is that the yoga that we practice as exercise is actually one of the Hindu paths to rejoining Brahman, the Hindu “god” from which all things begin, which permeates everything, and the rejoining of which is the end of all things. Other paths to Brahman include study, deep meditation, acts of piety, and reincarnation. Hindus even believe that other faiths, like Buddhism and even Christianity, can be paths back to Brahman under a different name. Each pose in yoga is specifically designed not just to make you better physically, but to align the body in such a way that it is opened up to more influence from the various gods that can help lead you back to Brahman. **It is undeniable that yoga is foundationally intended to be a Hindu worship practice, not just a neutral exercise form, like running, lifting weights, or playing basketball.** In light of this, decide whether your biblical worldview would allow for you to practice/take part in yoga as a form of exercise and give a good explanation for your answer.