

The background of the slide is an abstract composition. On the left side, there are several concentric circles in shades of blue and teal, creating a tunnel-like perspective that draws the eye towards the center. In the middle of this tunnel, there is a bright, colorful light source that creates a lens flare effect with orange, red, and yellow hues. The right side of the image is a soft, out-of-focus background with warm, ethereal colors like orange, pink, and light blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise sky.

Worldview Thinking

Revisiting the Fundamental Orientations of Our Minds and Hearts



Welcome!

For the past nine weeks we have been on a journey together to discover the intricacies of worldviews and how they impact the way we live in the world which God has made. As pilgrims traveling through this life, we readily acknowledge that we need God's presence, wisdom, and power in order to navigate the twists and turns and the ups and downs that we experience under His sovereign rule and reign. I am glad you have joined us this morning for Part 10 of our series on *Worldview Thinking* and pray that the truths we consider from God's Word will help you answer some of the bedrock questions you have about God and the universe He created for His own glory.



Worldview Thinking

Visual Perspectives



God's Transcendence

God's Rule: Control and Authority

God's Infinitude

God's Immanence

God's Covenant Presence in the World

Human Finitude



CREATION

FALL

REDEMPTION

CONSUMMATION



WORLDVIEW

"A worldview is the fundamental perspective from which one addresses every issue of life."

- James Sire

Fundamental Orientation of the Heart
Convictions & Commitments
Absolute, Objective Truth
Interpretation of Reality
Ultimate Beliefs
Presuppositions
Values

CREATION

FALL

REDEMPTION

CONSUMMATION



Personal
Covenantal
Relationship



Key Questions:

What do I truly believe?

What does my life tell me about my worldview?

What spiritual changes do I need to make?

What intellectual changes do I need to make?

What emotional changes do I need to make?

What experiences in my life have significantly shaped my mind and heart? Have I interpreted these events according to the Word of God?

Am I willing to ask the question: "What is true?"

Am I willing to go to God in repentance for wrong beliefs and disobedience to His Word?

CREATION

FALL

REDEMPTION

CONSUMMATION



Introduction

The picture of life as a journey is almost universal. From the *Exodus* to *Pilgrim's Progress* to the *Odyssey*, we are reminded that “life is a journey, a voyage, a quest, a pilgrimage, a personal odyssey, and we’re all at some unknown point between the beginning and the end of it.” Therefore, “the journey is the best metaphor for life itself” (Guinness).

The most encouraging news about traveling through this life is that we are not making the journey without a companion. God has not abandoned us and left us to fend for ourselves. As John Frame expresses it: “God has not left us alone in this journey.” His promises are sure: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5). “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt. 28:20).



Introduction

As we all know, traveling requires planning and resources. In his unparalleled Vietnam testament, *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien details the supplies the soldiers carried with them in their deployment: "The things they carried were largely determined by necessity. Among the necessities or near-necessities were P-38 can openers, pocket knives, heat tabs, wristwatches, dog tags, mosquito repellent, chewing gum, candy, cigarettes, salt tablets, packets of Kool-Aid, lighters, matches, sewing kits, Military Payment Certificates, C rations, and two or three canteens of water." They carried 20 pounds of supplies and 14 pounds of ammunition because their destination demanded it; they were going to be tramping through a booby-trapped jungle.



Introduction

The journey we are making through this life also requires many resources. To make sense of our world and to understand our place in it, God has given us ***General Revelation*** (the facts of creation), ***His Word*** (the Scriptures), and the guidance of the ***Holy Spirit***. In addition to these, He has also provided us with resources ***in ourselves***. We are His image and, therefore, “he has made us to know in a way analogous to his own knowledge (analogical thinking). He has given us ***minds, wills, imaginations***, and so on. And with redemption, he has remade these gifts in the image of Jesus” (Frame). We are ***uniquely endowed creatures*** and are specially related to God by the divinely bestowed image.



Today's Focus

The heart as “the center of our being, the inner disposition that governs all our thoughts, words, and deeds.”



Eight Basic Worldview Questions

1

What Is Prime Reality –
the Really Real?

2

What Is the Nature of
External Reality?

3

What Is a Human Being?

4

What Happens to a
Person at Death?

5

Why Is It Possible to
Know Anything at All?

6

How Do We Know What
Is Right and Wrong?

7

What Is the Meaning of
Human History?

8

What Personal, Life-
Orienting Commitments Are
Consistent with This
Worldview?



What Is A Human Being?

- The best explanation for our ability to discover (know) the “really-real” is that we are image-bearers of God, endowed with the ability to interact with the world which He created and in which He placed us. We have God-given capacities and gifts to know Him and His creation so that we might glorify Him in all things.
- “The image of God in man was not produced as a result of blind matter fumbling its unguided way through myriad different permutations. Thus Genesis challenges atheism’s fundamental assertion that human life has appeared without the activity of God’s mind, so that there is nothing special about human beings” (John Lennox, *Seven Days That Divide the World*).

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of
God he created him; male and female he created them.”

- Genesis 1:27



What the *imago Dei* Meant for Adam & Eve

- They were created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28; 9:6).
- They were uniquely endowed creatures.
- They were raised immeasurably above all the other creatures.
- They were capable of perfect communion with their Maker.
- They loved God in total self-devotion and gladly gave themselves to all that God required.
- They could discern good from evil and truth from error.
- God was the original of which they were made copies. There is a resemblance between Adam and Eve, and God.

Elements of the Divine Image

- Rational aptitudes (intellectual power; reason)
- The laws of logic (First Principles: Law of Identity, Law of Non-Contradiction, & Law of the Excluded Middle)
- Moral aptitudes (good and evil; right and wrong; conscience)
- Capacity for self-transcendence
- Volitional aptitudes (man's exercise of his will)
- Spirituality (the capacity to know God)
- Immortality (not eternality, but eternal life)
- Emotional aptitudes
- Dominion over the earth (cultural mandate)



Elements of the Divine Image

- Self-consciousness (the immediate certainty of my own being)
- Sexual differentiation in unity as symbolic of a dynamic love relationship
- Awareness of answerability (accountability) to God
- The conviction that the distinction between God and not-God is ultimate and undiminishable

“If we were not like God, we could not know Him.”

- Charles Hodge



The *imago Dei* Before the Fall

“In his original condition of moral rectitude, man loved God in total self-devotion and gladly gave himself to all that God requires. He knew the truth and did it. His created dignity consisted in knowledgeable and responsible relationships to the supernatural world and to fellow humans. His life was intended to consist of intelligible and dutiful devotion to God who is himself the truth and the good, and of service to his earthly neighbor. His mental capacity transcended the changing sensory realm; it included general ideas conducive to intelligible conversation and fellowship with God” (Carl F.H. Henry).



The *imago Dei* Before the Fall

“Indeed, man in God’s image knew God himself to be the truth and the good, the Creator and Lord of all; he knew reason and conscience as God’s enablements to recognize and approve the true and holy Lord. Created man knew God’s revealed truth and declared will, and loved, trusted and obeyed Him. His fellowship with God was unbroken; he lived a moral life in truth, a life consonant with God’s revelation pulsating through the *imago Dei*. To God he gave his whole heart, his undivided self; God’s light and law were his highest fealty (obligation of fidelity) and felicity (happiness)” (Henry).



Thomas Morris

Philosophy Professor, University of Notre Dame, emeritus

“Only the presuppositions of historic Christianity both adequately explain and correspond with the two environments in which every man must live; the **external world** with its form and complexity; and the **internal world** of the man’s own characteristics as a human being.”





The Heart in Worldview Formation

“Worldview as a fundamental orientation of the heart. This notion would be easier to grasp if the word *heart* bore in today’s world the weight it bears in Scripture. As David Naugle has so well pointed out, the biblical concept of the heart is far richer than our common parlance would have it. Today we think of the heart as the seat of the emotions (especially tender, sympathetic emotions) and perhaps the will. But it rarely includes the mind. The biblical concept, however, includes the notions of wisdom (Prov. 2:10), emotion (Ex. 4:14; John 14:1), desire and will (I Chron. 29:18), spirituality (Acts 8:21), and intellect (Rom. 1:21). In short, and in biblical terms, the heart is ‘the central defining element of the human person.’ That is, a worldview is situated in the self – the central operating chamber of every human being. It is from this heart that all one’s thoughts and actions proceed” (Sire).

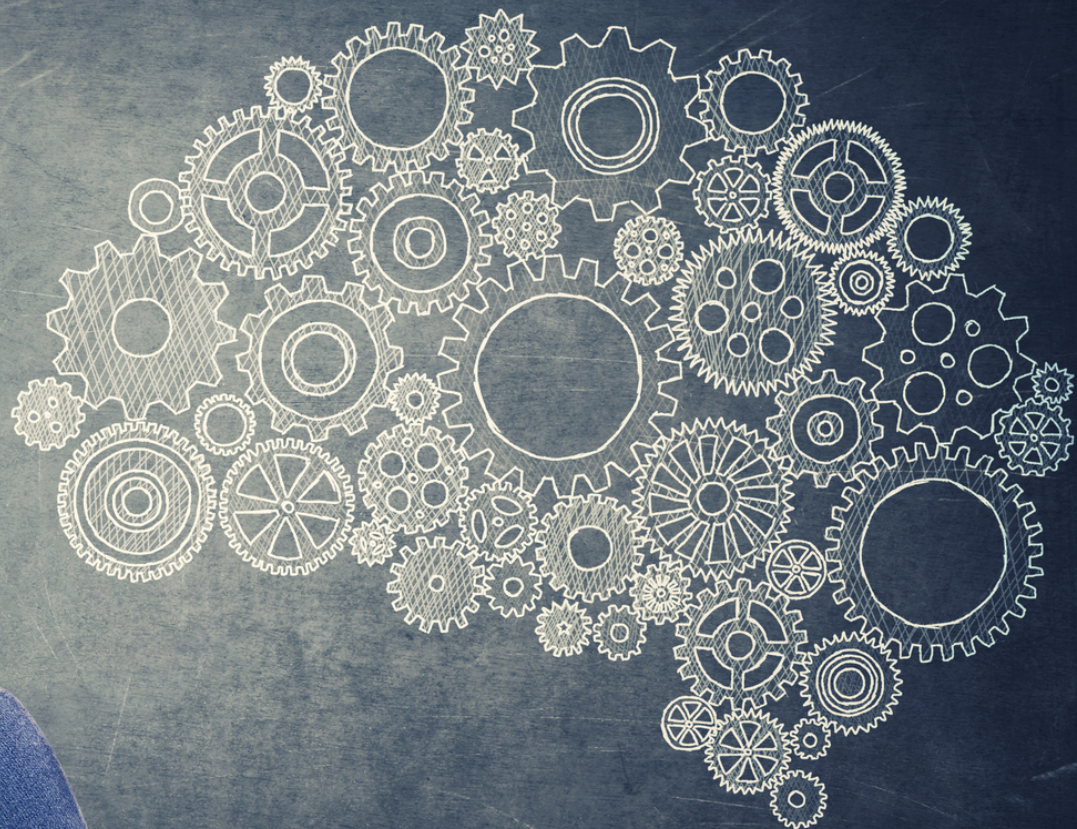
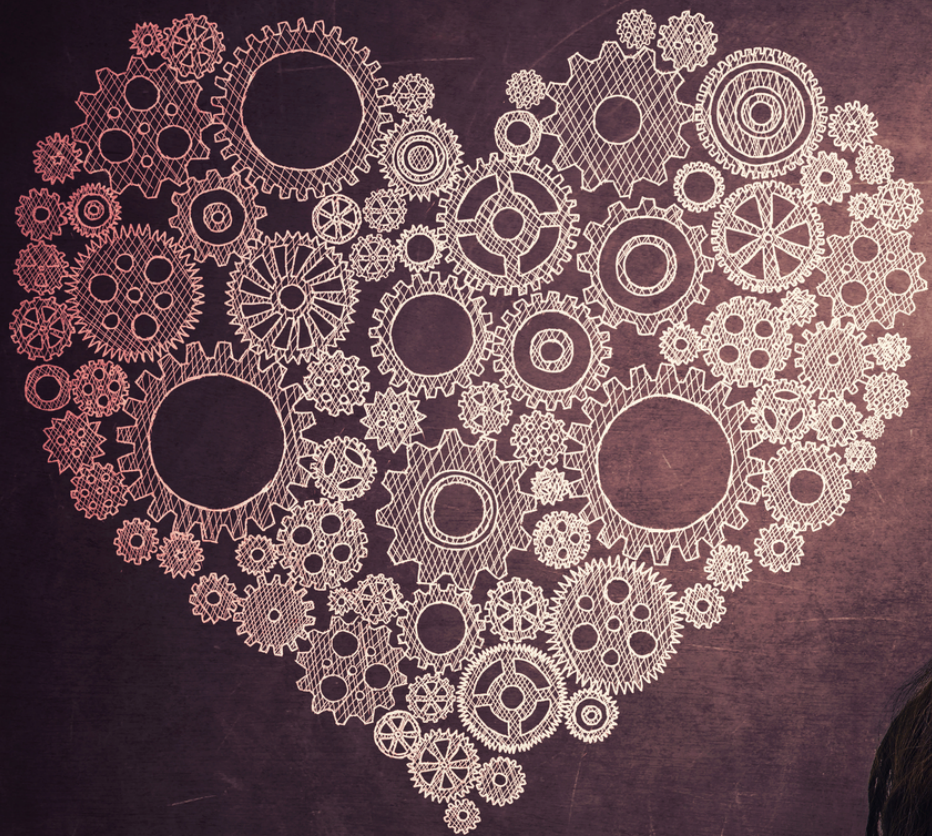


Heart

The False Divide

Intellect



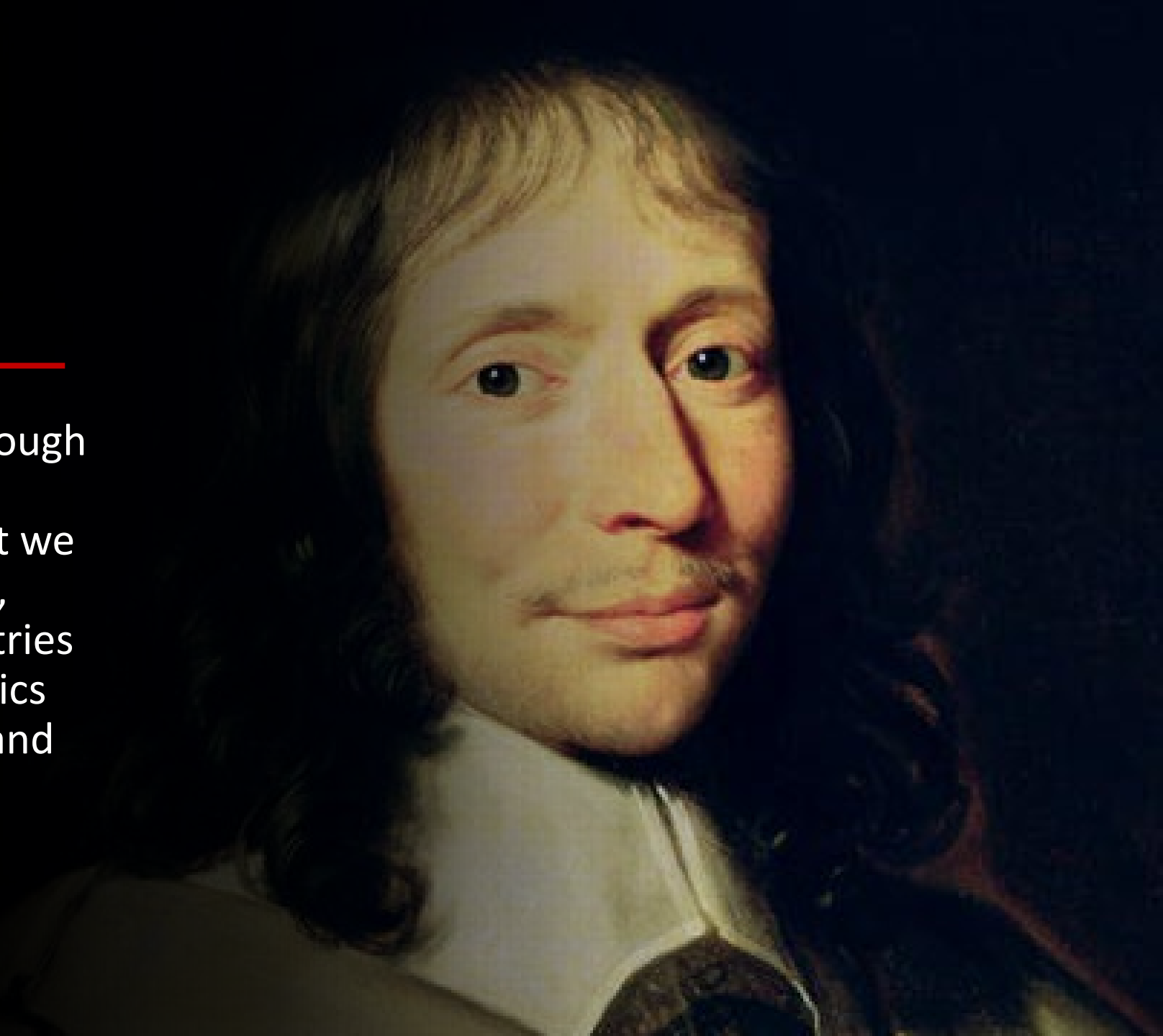




Blaise Pascal

1623-1662

“We know the truth not only through our reason but also through our heart. It is through the latter that we know first principles, and reason, which has nothing to do with it, tries in vain to refute them. The skeptics have no other object than that, and they work at it to no purpose.”





Blaise Pascal

- “For knowledge of first principles, like space, time, motion, number, is as solid as any derived through reason, and it is on such knowledge, coming from the heart and instinct, that reason has to depend and base all its argument.”
- “The heart feels that there are three spatial dimensions and that there is an infinite series of numbers, and reason goes on to demonstrate that there are no two square numbers of which one is double the other. Principles are felt, propositions proved, and both with certainty though by different means.”
- Again: Principles are felt, propositions proved.



Blaise Pascal

- “Two excesses: to exclude reason, to admit nothing but reason.”
- “Reason’s last step is the recognition that there are an infinite number of things which are beyond it. It is merely feeble if it does not go as far as to realize that.”
- God’s law is written on every person’s heart (Jer. 31:33). His eternal and infallible truth is the foundation of all of our thought and morality.



Simone Weil

1909-1943

“One can never wrestle enough with God if one does so out of pure regard for the truth. Christ likes us to prefer truth to him because, before being Christ, he is truth. If one turns aside from him to go toward the truth, one will not go far before falling into his arms.”