



Worldview Thinking

Revisiting the Fundamental Orientations of Our Minds and Hearts



Introduction

In a recent essay, *World Magazine's* senior editor Janie Cheaney captured a critical aspect of worldview thinking: “**The truth you believe shapes the story you tell.**” James Sire made a similar claim when he wrote: “A worldview can be expressed as **a story** or in a set of presuppositions.” In a third citation, Dr. Earl Radmacher referenced King Solomon, who also connected the heart to human behavior: “As he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:6). In other words, “only what lies deep inside the counsels of a man’s heart presents a true picture of what the man is.” And even though our worldviews generally lie deeply embedded in our subconscious, it is there nonetheless. It is a full-blown story ready to be told, whether in speech or behavior.

A Brief Review

Part 1: What Is a Worldview?

- A. Fourteen clarifying and complementary definitions
- B. The meaning of the word *presupposition*
- C. The biblical worldview is radically different from all other worldviews
- D. Fifteen summary theses about worldviews
- E. The importance of pursuing truth regardless of its implications

Part 2: Why Worldviews Matter

- A. Why understanding worldviews is important
- B. The problem of anti-intellectualism
- C. What is involved in worldview analysis?
- D. Worldview requirements
- E. Facing the consequences of our worldview

A Brief Review

Part 3: Self-Conscious Worldview Development

- A. Examining the origins of our beliefs and commitments
- B. How worldviews become embedded in our subconscious
- C. The stranglehold of the new concept of truth
- D. The importance of being fully conscious of our worldview and those of others
- E. The perfection of the intellect (John Henry Newman)
- F. Using our imaginations and reason in worldview development
- G. How we begin to develop a consistent and unifying system of thought
- H. What does it mean to “think Christianly”?

A Brief Review

Part 4: Tools for Worldview Analysis

1. Is the worldview sound?
 - It should possess inner intellectual coherence (or else it is false).
 - It should be able to comprehend the data of reality (all kinds of data).
 - It should explain what it claims to explain (morality, for instance).
 - It should be subjectively satisfactory (by being true).
2. How does the worldview answer 8 essential questions?
3. What are the consequences of false beliefs?
4. What are the causes of personal and social derailment?

A Brief Review

Part 5: First Steps Toward Worldview Analysis

- A. On the knowledge of God and ourselves (Calvin)
- B. Solomon's Simile, Proverbs 20:5
 - Recognition that something exists
 - Awareness of personal presuppositions
 - Knowledge of divergent worldviews
 - Effective communication with others
- C. The Law of Non-contradiction
- D. Does the triune God exist?
- E. Prime reality: others possibilities

A Brief Review

Parts 6 & 7: Ways of Knowing

- A. What is the nature of external reality?
- B. Where does thinking begin?
- C. Two ways to reason
- D. How do we come to know anything?
- E. The effects of the fall in Eden
- F. Prerequisites for knowledge
 - The Validity of the Law of Non-Contradiction
 - The Validity of the Law of Causality
 - The Basic Reliability of Sense Perception
- G. Pursue the truth regardless of its implications

A Brief Review

Part 8: Analogical Thinking

- A. We are created in God's image
- B. The use of analogy in worldview thinking
- C. Man (male and female) is derivative and dependent
- D. The relationship between God and man
- E. The enormous capacity of knowing
- F. Four reasons Christian should study the Bible
- G. Analogy in biblical interpretation
- H. God's interpretation of everything is prior
- I. Analogical versus univocal thinking
- J. Limitations on our knowledge of God

A Brief Review

Part 9: Review

Part 10 & 11: The Role of the Human Heart in Knowing

- A. God's presence and promises for the journey
- B. God's resources for our journey
- C. What is a human being?
- D. The *imago Dei* (image of God)
- E. Elements of the divine image
- F. The *imago Dei* before the fall
- G. The "heart" in worldview formation
- H. The false divide between the heart and the intellect
- I. The truth is known through our minds *and* hearts
- J. A heart for God

A Brief Review

Part 12: Man's Futile Attempt to Suppress the Truth

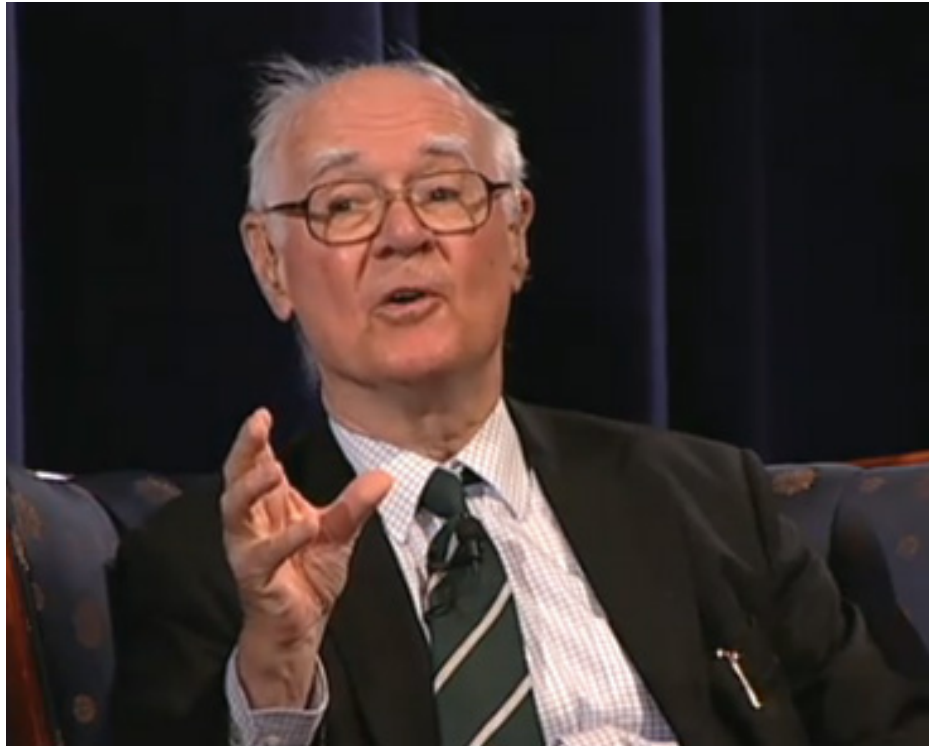
- A. The reasons everyone does not believe in the triune God
- B. How unbelievers respond to the truth
- C. Exegesis of Romans 1:18-23
- D. The unsuccessful attempts at suppression of the truth
- E. The progression of truth suppression
- F. Three societal consequences of suppressing the truth
- G. God's wrath and judgment
- H. Only two kinds of people (C.S. Lewis)

A Brief Review

Part 13: Reading Worldviewishly

- A. What is reading?
- B. The art of reading
- C. Why read?
- D. Francis Bacon on reading
- E. Os Guinness on reading the classics
- F. What reading does to the mind
- G. How books can be dangerous
- H. Reading directs thinking
- I. Thinking directs reading
- J. Practical considerations

Sir John Polkinghorne



John C. Polkinghorne
1930 - 2021

English theoretical physicist, theologian, writer, and
Anglican priest

“I am a passionate believer in the unity of knowledge and I believe that those who are truly seeking an understanding through and through, and who will not settle for a facile and premature conclusion to that search, are seeking God, whether they acknowledge that divine quest or not. Theism is concerned with making *total* sense of the world.”