

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!

We are glad you chose to join us for Part 2 of our series on *Worldview Thinking*. We hope your experience with us will prove beneficial to you as you consider some of the most significant questions which people have been asking for centuries about the purpose and meaning of life. If there is anything we can do to encourage or help you in your spiritual journey, please do not hesitate to let us know.



Course Objectives

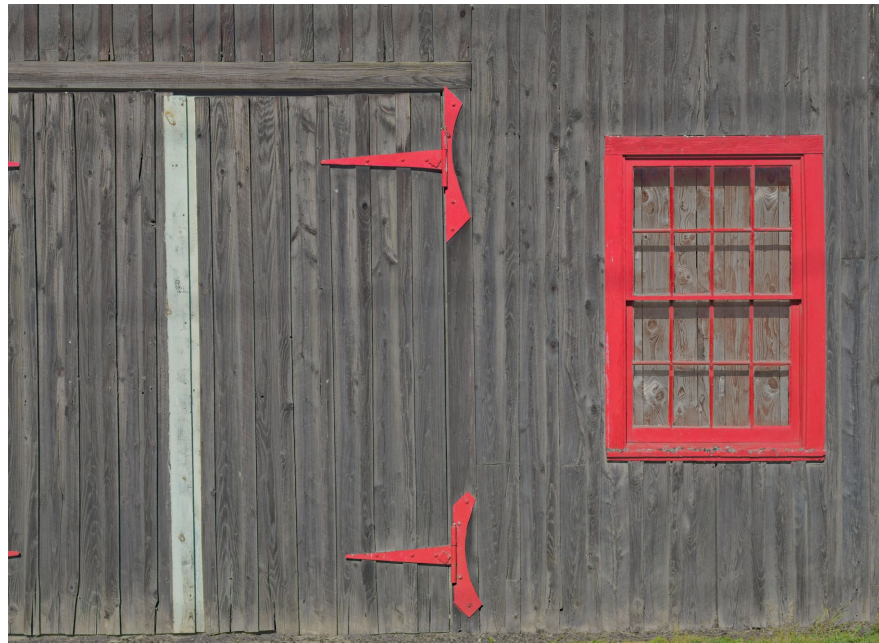
- To understand the concept of worldview
- To understand how worldviews are formed
- To “see” your own worldview, to dig below the surface
- To learn how to analyze other worldviews
- To develop “habits of the mind” which glorify God
- To develop a comprehensive, unified Christian worldview
- To become aware of the ethical component of worldviews

Introduction

In Part 1, I introduced the concept of worldview and provided fourteen different definitions in order to ensure that we have a thorough and clear understanding of its meaning and importance to our lives.

Perhaps the three most visual and memorable definitions are:

1. A worldview is a **giant filing cabinet** into which we fit our beliefs and from which we interpret and judge the world.
2. A worldview is the **set of hinges** on which all our everyday thinking and doing turns.
3. A worldview is “like an **intellectual lens** through which we see the world.”



Worldview Models



“If someone looks through a red-colored lens, the world looks red to him. If another individual looks through a blue-colored lens, the world will look blue to her. So the question we must answer is: ‘What color lens (worldview) is the right color to wear in order to have a correct view of the world?’”

- Pete Bocchino & Norman Geisler

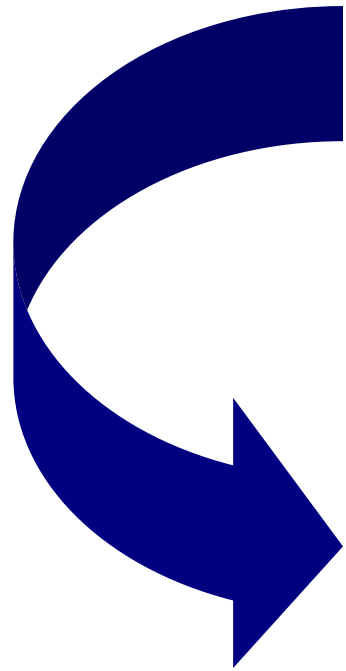


The Universality of Worldviews

- Everyone has a worldview. Everyone has a philosophy of life.
- Having a worldview is not optional. Refusing to adopt an explicit worldview *is* a worldview in itself, or at least a philosophical position.
- “*Every person* carries in his head a mental model of the world” (Alvin Toffler).
- “Christians of all kinds are discovering that overt human beliefs and behaviors, as well as sociocultural phenomena are – consciously or not – most often rooted in and expressions of some deeper, underlying principle and concept of life” (David Naugle).
- Everyone has a set of presuppositions.

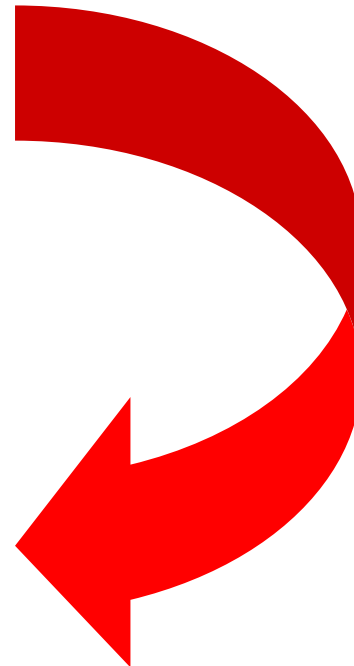
Why Understanding Worldviews Is Important

1. Worldviews provide us with a conceptual framework from which we can seek to live our lives for the glory of God.
2. We have a deep-seated need to see the “big picture” in order to make sense of our lives and the world in which we live.
3. Our worldview can help us by answering the big questions about life.
4. Understanding worldviews is the essential step for understanding everything else, the window through which we see the world.
5. Our worldview governs our thinking, and our thinking determines our behavior.



Worldview

Thinking



Behavior



Why Understanding Worldviews Is Important

6. Worldview thinking enables us to overcome the false divide between heart and intellect.
7. Worldview thinking enables us to overcome the false divide between secular and sacred.
8. Learning to think “worldviewishly” prepares us to be more sensitive to the conceptual frameworks that others embrace and, therefore, to be more patient and effective in sharing the gospel with them.
9. “Once a person commits himself to a certain set of presuppositions, his direction and destination are determined” (Nash). The Apostle Paul’s worldview was instantly altered on the road to Damascus.



The Problem of Anti-Intellectualism

“Our evangelical experience has become our strength and our weakness. We are people with a true, sometimes a deep, experience of God. But we are no longer people of truth. Only rarely are we serious about theology at a popular level. We are still suspicious of thinking and scholarship. We are still attracted to movements that replace thinking and theology by other emphases – relational, charismatic, and managerial (as in church growth). Some of our ministries and organizations that operate at the highest levels of national life are still deeply, explicitly, and persistently anti-intellectual.”

- Os Guinness, *Fit Bodies, Fat Minds: Why Evangelicals Don't Think and What to Do About It*



The Problem of Anti-Intellectualism

“It is not just scholars and ministers who will benefit from training in philosophy, but also laypeople who need to be intellectually engaged if our culture is to be effectively reformed. Our churches are unfortunately overly-populated with people whose minds, as Christians, are going to waste....They may be spiritually regenerate, but their minds have not been converted; they still think like unbelievers. Despite their Christian commitment, they remain largely empty selves. What is an empty self? An empty self is a person who is passive, sensate, busy and hurried, incapable of developing an interior life. Such a person is inordinately individualistic, infantile, and narcissistic.”

- J.P. Moreland and William Lane Craig, *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*



1
7
3
5

**“What we believe are the rails
upon which our lives run.”**

- Dallas Willard



A Bits-and-Pieces Mentality



It is easier to complete this jigsaw puzzle of the Florence Cathedral when you have the picture on the box.

What Is Involved in Worldview Analysis?

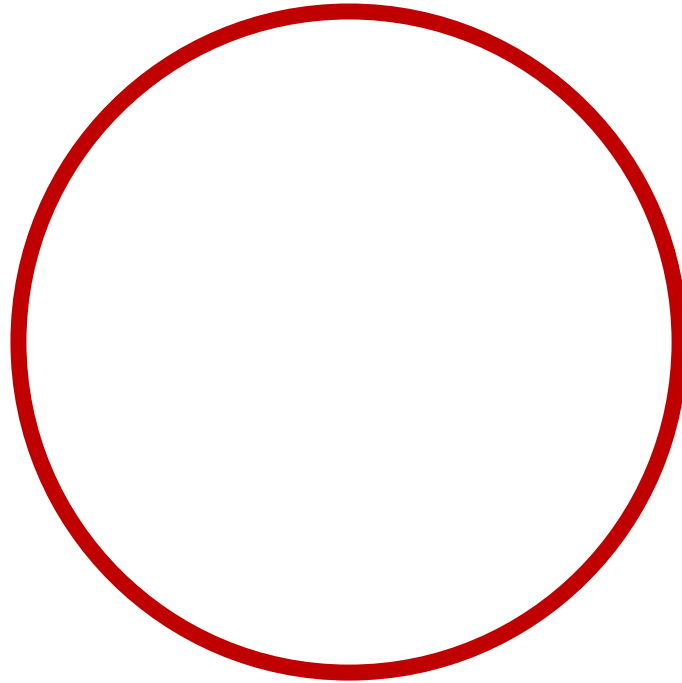
- Being willing to ask yourself what you truly believe. “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him?” (1 Cor. 2:11).
- Examining yourself and asking what your life tells you about your worldview.
- Identifying your major intellectual changes.
- Identifying your major emotional changes.
- Identifying the experiences in your life that have shaped your mind and heart.
- Being willing to ask the question: “What is true?”

Worldview Requirements

- Worldviews must be relevant to what we know of the world and ourselves.
- A true worldview cannot conflict with what we know of the physical universe.
- A true worldview cannot ignore or be inconsistent with human experience.
- It must be possible for a person to live consistently in harmony with the system he professes.
- The person holding to a certain worldview must not borrow from a competing worldview in order to live within his professed worldview.



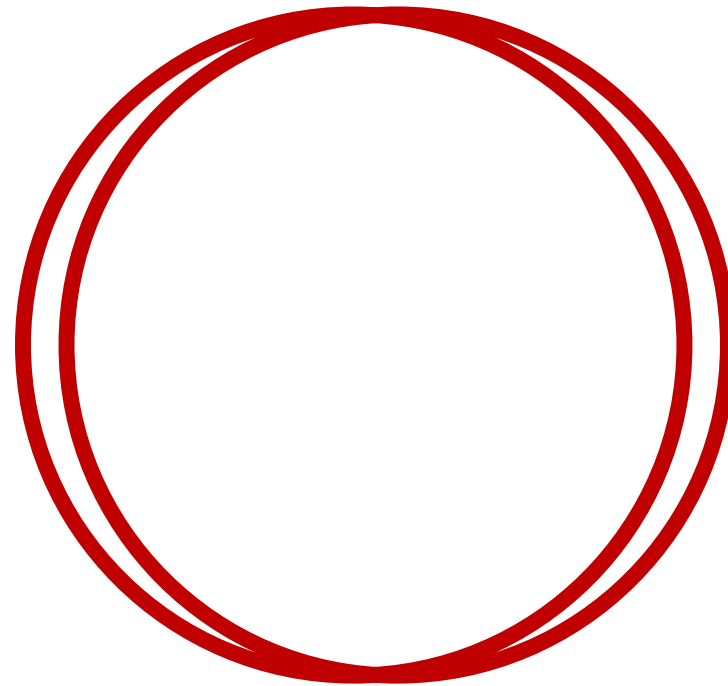
Your Worldview



THE INTELLECTUAL LENS THROUGH WHICH YOU SEE THE WORLD

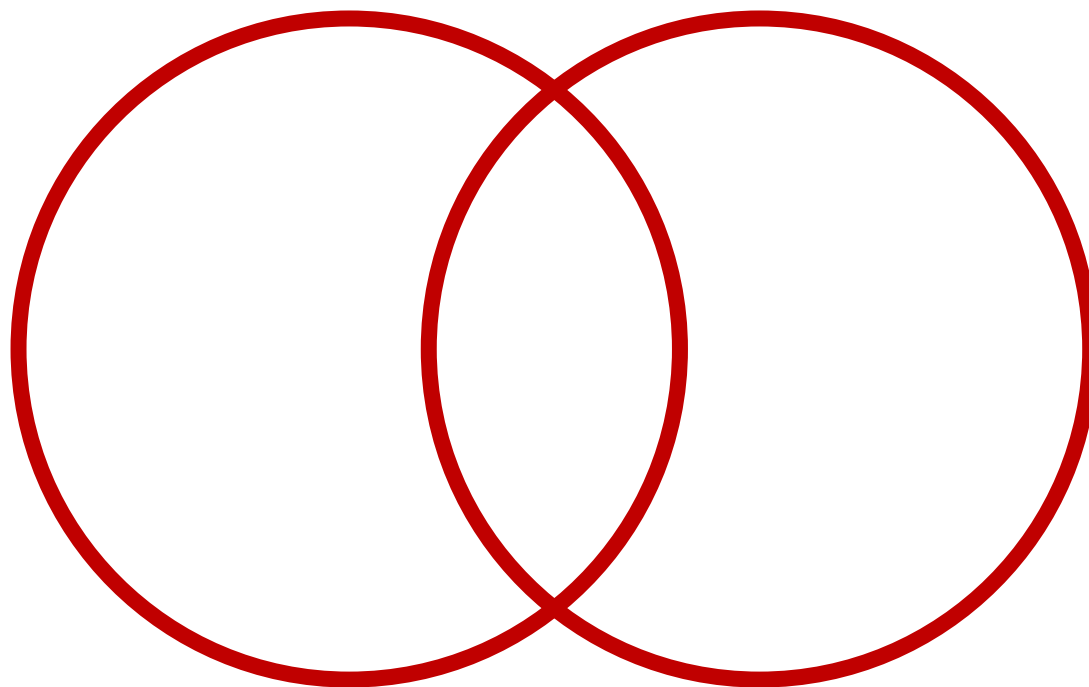


Two Similar Worldviews



THESE TWO PEOPLE SHARE A COMMON WORLDVIEW, BUT DISAGREE ON MANY THINGS

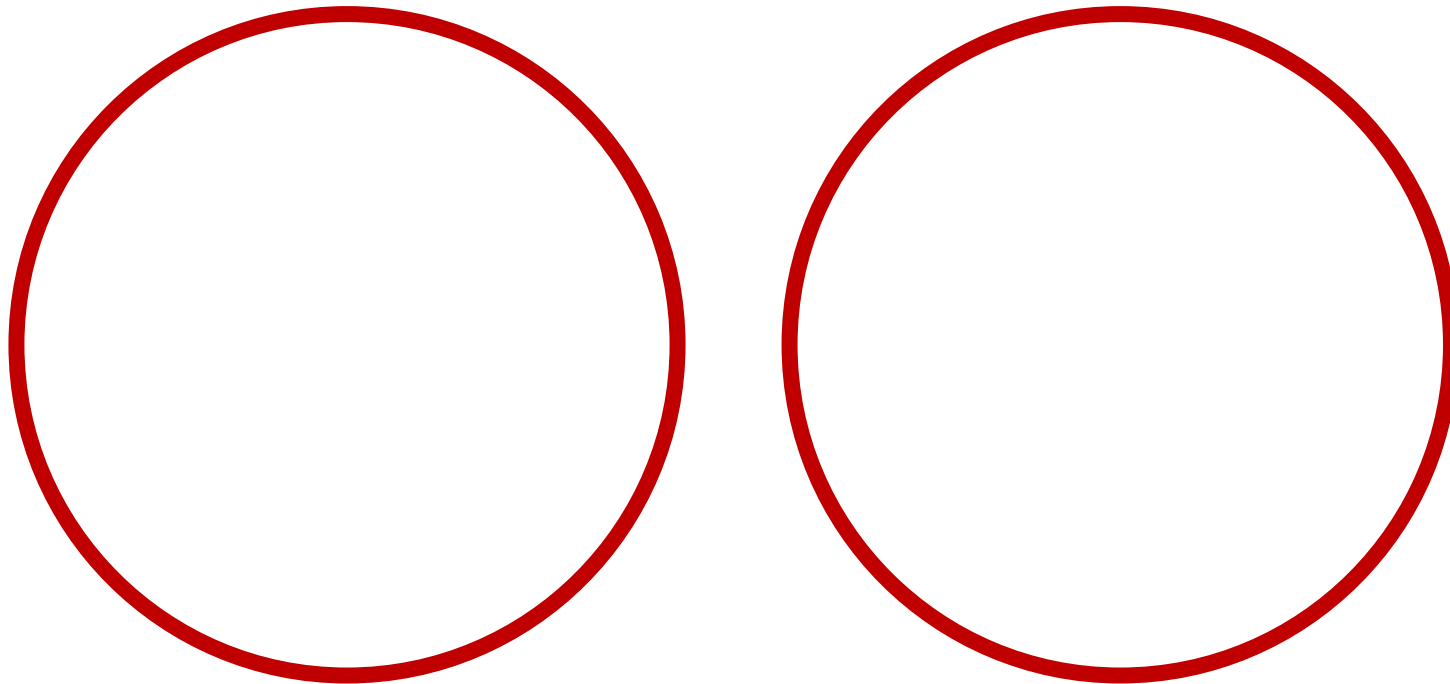
Disagree More Than Agree



THESE TWO DISAGREE MORE THAN THEY AGREE



Disparate Worldviews



COLLISIONS OF CONSCIOUSNESS: AN UNRESOLVABLE CLASH OF WORLDVIEWS



THE WORLDVIEWS OF AN ENTIRE GROUP, SOCIETY, OR NATION



Ideas Matter

- In 1948, University of Chicago Professor Richard M. Weaver (1910-1963) published, *Ideas Have Consequences*, which “bluntly articulates an immovable intellectual truth: ideas do indeed have consequences.”
- Conclusions logically come from premises.
- “Facts are not created by culture, or language, or consciousness. Thought and language have no ability to structure or produce objects....Facts are totally unforgiving. Facts are what we run into when we are wrong.” (Dallas Willard).
- “Reality is the totality of facts” (Willard).
- “Reality gets the last word” (Ken Myers, *Mars Hill Audio*).



Dallas Willard, PhD
1935-2013
Professor of Philosophy, USC



“If you are building a life, the truth will not show up immediately.
We will find our beliefs either true or false.”