

A Christian World View

"What is a Christian world view?"

I. Christianity is a COMPREHENSIVE LIFE SYSTEM

A. It answers these questions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

B. ONLY Christianity demonstrates;

1. A way to understand the _____.

a. The _____ order

- 1) How were the stars and galaxies and planets formed?
- 2) What is planet earth like no other planet we know of?
- 3) Why is our sun at the exact distance to earth which keeps our planet's temperatures at a livable level?
- 4) Why does man have a brain that functions like no other other creature?
- 5) How does our weather system assist in supporting life?

b. The _____ order

- 1) Why are some actions "wrong" and others "right"?
- 2) Who gets to say what's "wrong" and "right"?
- 3) How am I supposed to treat other human beings around me?

2. A comprehensive world view that covers all areas of _____

_____ including every aspect of creation.

a. How did we arrive at a systematic approach to the study of medicine? or science? or math? or language?

b. Why are men different than women? Humans than animals?

3. A way to live in relation to the _____
- How communities function
 - How marriage relationships are to function
 - How do we solve people problems
 - Why do we need an army or a police department or a system of laws and courts and judges?

"Christianity is a life system, or world view, that governs every area of existence. We should be able to recognize God's truth all around us; from the beauty of His creation, to His voice in the performance of a symphony, to His character displayed in the disciplined structure of a classroom, to order in an algebra problem."

II. The War Today in America - _____

* It isn't against the Iraqis or the Muslims or Communism... the war pits Christianity against naturalism.

* Remember, the question is, "Which system is superior to all others?" or "Which system can answer life's toughest questions and work for all who believe in the real world?"

* Quote from Chuck Colson:

"The scriptural basis for this understanding is the creation account. Everything that exists came into being at his command and is therefore subject to him, finding its purpose and meaning in him. The implication is that in every topic we investigate, from ethics to economics to ecology, the truth is found only in relationship to God and his revelation. God created the natural world and natural laws. God created our bodies and the moral laws that keep us healthy. God created our minds and the laws of logic and imagination. God created us as social beings and gave us the principles for social and political institutions. God created a world of beauty and the principles of esthetics and artistic creation. In every area of life, genuine knowledge means discerning the laws and ordinances by which God has structured creation, and then allowing those laws to shape the way we should live"

Bottom line....God created all for us to use, enjoy, and benefit from. From the wonder of a sunset on the beach, to the joy of relationships, to the moral basis for the laws we govern ourselves by, to the structure of government...all these and more are directly from the Creator's hand. This premiss is the foundation for a Christian world view.

II. Terms Defined / Christianity vs Naturalism

A. _____ = There is a _____ God who created the universe and all his creation is subject to him.

B. _____ = _____ alone are sufficient to explain everything that exists...that life came from a chance collision of atoms, evolving into life as we know it today. Naturalism even includes some forms of religion - those where the spiritual is conceived as completely inherent in nature. (Pochahontas in the Disney movie - "everything in nature has a spirit; trees, the stream, mountains, clouds, etc.")

C. _____ - There is no transcendent form of moral truth, and we are left to construct morality on our own. Every principle is reduced to personal preference. What is truth for you may not be truth for me.

1. People will say "That's what you believe...I don't believe that and why do I have to believe like you do? All opinions and religions are valid...one is not superior to another."

2. The problem with this is that there is not standard of truth. Who is to say what is right and wrong?

Think about this in light of our present society and what is approved by a large segment of the populace in our country:

1. Homosexuality
2. Cheating to gain an advantage (school, business)
3. Lying (okay as long as it doesn't hurt someone)
4. Sex outside of marriage or before marriage
5. Abortion

D. _____ - All cultures are morally equivalent, each merely reflecting its own history and experience. We find our identity ONLY in our race, gender, or ethnic group. (Ex. We are not just Americans anymore...we are African-Americans; Hispanic-Americans; American Indians; feminists, etc.)

Quote:

"Multiculturalism is not about appreciating folk cultures; it's about the dissolution of the individual into the tribal group. In post-modernism, there is no objective, universal truth; there is only the perspective of the group, whatever the group may be: African-American, women, gays, Hispanics, and the list goes on. In postmodernism, all viewpoints, all lifestyles, all beliefs and behaviors are regarded as equally valid. Institutions of higher learning have embraced this philosophy so aggressively that they have adopted campus codes enforcing political correctness. Tolerance has become so important that no exception is tolerated. But if all ideas are equally valid, as post modernism insists, then no idea is really worth our allegiance; nothing is worth living or dying for -- or even arguing about." Pg. 23

E. _____ - Whatever works best is right. Actions and policies are judged on utilitarian grounds alone.

(Ex. Why be concerned about our president's moral failures when he's done such a good job with the economy. Things are going well what does it matter?)

F. _____ - If only we create the right social and economic structures, we can usher in an age of harmony and prosperity.
(Ex. Our current educational system is built on the premise that if we educate people enough they will become the mature, good citizens that we all strive to be. Hatred, drugs, wars, racial discord, disputes, etc. will all be done away with and we will just all get along!)

III. Conclusion

A. "Understanding Christianity as a world view is important not only for fulfilling the great commission but also for fulfilling the cultural commission - the call to create a culture under the lordship of Christ. God cares not only about redeeming souls but also about restoring his creation. He calls us to be agents not only of his saving grace but also of his common grace. Our job is not only to build up the church but also to build a society to the glory of God."

B. The Christian life system is defined by the following:

1. Creation - God spoke the universe into existence and created humanity in his image.
2. Fall - The human condition is marred by _____.
3. Redemption - God in his grace provided a way to be reconciled to himself
4. Restoration - We are called to bring these principles into every area of life and create a new culture.

"Equipped with this understanding, we can show not only that the Christian world view gives the best answers but also that Christians can take up spiritual arms in the great cosmic struggle between conflicting world views."

"The hope for today's world is a renewed and vibrant spiritual order,...arrayed for the great battle of principle against principal."

5 THINGS THAT SET CHRISTIANITY APART FROM OTHER RELIGIONS

1. It's testable - Historical and textual evidence (Ex. Buddhism takes a life time to develop if it works)
2. Salvation is free
3. There is a world view fit in Christianity
4. Get to live a non-compartmentalized life (Ex. In Christianity the spirit life and everyday life come together)
5. Christianity has Jesus at the center - Even other religions revere Jesus.