

# WORLDVIEW

## Does It Matter? *Is Anything More Influential?* Question #1

Proverbs 23:7 says: “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

How we think, our presuppositions, our outlook, our approach to the world has a large impact on how we live and affect others.

My head coaches with these two teams had totally different views of how to play football: the ‘81 Rams and the ‘86 49ers.

**DISCUSSION: Describe the culture or core values of a place where you’ve worked. What was its impact? Contrast it with another place where you worked.**

Civilizations have always included those who doubt God. In Jesus’ day as now, the greatest doubters were the intellectually elite skeptics who often attach themselves to a system (religion, philosophy, science), but miss the truth. Doing that, we’re out of alignment with reality, the way things really are, the way things have been since they started, and the way they’ll be in the future. Let’s see how Jesus answered some testing skeptics.

Immediately after one group of religious intellectuals, the Sadducees, tried to trap him, Jesus was challenged with a huge question by the most brilliant legal scholar of the elite class of Pharisees:

(Matthew 22:36) “‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**QUESTION: What does it mean to love God with all your mind? Why’s that so important?**

### *What is Worldview?*

Worldview is the way the world works and how we fit in it.

It’s an attempt to explain the great questions man asks...about the universe, life, death, meaning, morality, etc. Each of us has our own worldview, our understanding and approach to the world based on our own presuppositions about reality and life.

“Our worldview is the sum total of our beliefs about the world, the ‘big picture’ that directs our daily decisions and actions,” write Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey in *How Now Shall We Live*.

Worldviews answer four ultimate human questions:

1. Where do we come from...and who are we? This deals with Origin and Creation.
2. What’s gone wrong with the world...why is there evil and suffering? This addresses the universal Problem sometimes referred to as “The Fall.”
3. Is there an answer to our dilemma...what can we do to fix it? This is the quest for a Solution, or Redemption.
4. What is our purpose in living...can we make things better? This is your Vision, your view or role in Restoration.

### ***Question #1: Where do we come from? Who are we?***

**DISCUSSION: What messages are we getting on this theme of origins ...and from whom?**

(John 1:1-5) The word “Word,” translated from the Greek “Logos,” means organizing force. Early Greeks believed all matter first existed as random, chaotic, unorganized, shapeless molecules.

“Logos” organized that chaos into order, as observed in nature. The apostle John uses terms the Greeks already understood, audaciously declaring Jesus to be “Logos”, the organizing Force of the universe.

Let’s read Genesis: 1:3, 6, 9, 11k 14k 16k 20, 24, 27; and Genesis 2:4-9 and 20-25.

**DISCUSSION: Do you have a hard time with this “creation thing?”**

**DISCUSSION: Could God have used evolution, a Big Bang, a fully mature universe, and/or creation in stages?**

Paul writes in Romans 1:20, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

### ***A Different Worldview***

Naturalism emerged in the modern era (1600’s) with Enlightenment thinkers. This school of thought addresses origins by appealing solely to natural forces and explanations

using science and reason. Its luminaries include Blaise Pascal and philosopher/mathematician Rene Descartes.

**DISCUSSION: What is Pascal’s famous quote? (“I think ... therefore I am”) Who becomes the focus of all things? What impact is there on “God?”**

**DISCUSSION: Are Naturalism’s explanations of the origins of life and the universe solid? What are the implications if we’re but a cosmic accident?**

Back to John, Chapter 1, and to Jesus, who in the beginning was with God and *was* God, in creating all things.

(John 1:14) “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

(John 1:10-13) “He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or husband’s will, but born of God.**”

The Bible says that Jesus is God. He created us. He forgives sin and wipes away our negative past and painful failings. If we agree that we need Him fully and believe in Him as our saving God, we will live with Him in this world, and forever, after death takes us from this earth.

Next time ... What went wrong with the world and why? The question of truth? What happened to sin? Postmodernism ... what is it, and why does it matter?

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