



Worldview and Its Significance

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV))

Definition of “Worldview”:

“A worldview is, first of all, an explanation and interpretation of the world and second, an application of this view to life. In simpler terms, our worldview is a view of the world and a view for the world.” - William E. Brown and W. Gary Phillips, *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview* (Sheffield Publishers, 1996), 29.

Why “Worldview” matters:

Simply put, our beliefs (about God and the world) affect behavior.

- I. At CBF, our understanding of worldview is first articulated in our “Meeting Point” as described in the “Seven M’s of Covenant Relationship” (or church’s vision). Our Meeting Point is the doctrinal foundation from which we worship God and do ministry. As a “Spiritual Community Based on the Word, the Will and the Way of God,” our world-and-life view is centered on an appreciation of the **person** of Jesus Christ along with the **power** and **promises** of God (Romans 5:1-11) which sets the context of understanding our **position** (our identity) and **participation** with God in Christ.
- II. In the book *Making Kingdom Disciples*, Charles H. Dunahoo addresses the issue of World-and-life view from the perspective of making disciples within a “kingdom of God” framework that results in a believer completely reordering his/her life around living in the kingdom, with Jesus as the King. Dunahoo founds his framework on the fact that God’s kingdom includes not just the church but the whole world as well. Therefore, for Christians to be true disciples of Jesus, they must understand how to think and live in God’s kingdom in every area of life. With a kingdom mindset, every thought in every area must be brought into submission to the King of Kings (2 Cor. 10:5) – adapted from Laurence O’Donnell | *Jesus’ Exclusive Christian Worldview: ‘I am . . . the Truth’* download from <http://inthylight.wordpress.com/> on 5/23/2009
- III. Every worldview, Christian and non-Christian, deals with at least these three questions:
 1. Where did we come from? (and, likewise, why are we here?)- CREATION
 2. What is wrong with the world? – FALL
 3. How can the world be fixed? – REDEMPTION

IV. **Our Method of Shaping Worldview (Adopted from our Philosophy of Education)**

All educational content can be categorized into God's **Special Revelation** and God's **General Revelation**. God's Special Revelation (the Bible) gives us our understanding of General Revelation (the world that God created). Scripture enables us to categorize our perceptions of and our experiences in the world around us, as well as to interpret the teachings of our culture. History, Science, and the arts are filtered through and interpreted by divine truth.¹

1. **Study of God's Special Revelation (The Word).**

We believe a Kingdom worldview is shaped in a believer through a full interactive and reflective study of each book of the Bible over time so that the student will

- Develop an intimate knowledge of Jesus as the Anointed One of God as he is testified of throughout the Bible
- Know the sixty-six divinely inspired major themes/purposes of the Bible and their practical application
- Allow the Bible to affect their BELIEFS (by teaching the revealed truth, and exposing erroneous teaching) and their BEHAVIOR (by straightening out their lives and continuously training them to think, say and do what is right) ², as they willingly strive to be thoroughly equipped to actively and sacrificially love God and love others as themselves³.

2. **Study of God's General Revelation - Bible permeating every subject matter utilizing a Classical Method including:**

i. The Trivium

Providentially, Christianity was born in the classical world and then grew throughout medieval Europe and the Reformation. The classical method has proven successful throughout the ages. The ancients divided all of learning into seven liberal arts. The first three were known as the TRIVIUM. The Trivium provides a structure and methodology for a strong elementary through high school education. It can be summarized as follows:⁴

1. Grammar & **Knowledge** Stage (Grades K-5)
2. Logic & **Understanding** Stage (Grades 6-8)
3. Rhetoric & **Wisdom** Stage (Grades 9-12)

1 http://heartofwisdom.com/artman/publish/printer_140.shtml

2 Timothy 3:15-1

3 Matthew 22:34-40

4 <http://www.bradfordacademy.org/about/faq/index.html>

ii. The Disciplines

We desire an educational institution that will honor and exalt the God of our salvation. As the Academy grows into a larger school, the goal is to have an institution that will constantly bring the Word of God before the student and teach every discipline under the light of Scripture for His glory.

For example, below is a chart that compares competing worldviews in the framework of the more common areas of studies in Western Culture. It is an abbreviated version of a larger chart from Summit Ministries. The original chart also compares and contrasts the Biblical Christian worldview with Islam, Secular Humanism, Marxism – Leninism, Cosmic Humanism and Postmodernism. **In light of the apparent dominance of Secular Humanism in our culture, the chart extrapolated below only compares and contrasts Biblical Christianity and Secular Humanism.**

	Biblical Christianity	Secular Humanism
Source	<i>Bible</i>	<i>Humanist Manifesto I, II, III</i>
Theology	Theism (Trinitarian)	Atheism
Philosophy	Supernaturalism (Faith and Reason)	Naturalism
Ethics	Moral Absolutes	Moral Relativism
Biology	Creationism	Neo-Darwinian Evolution
Psychology	Mind/Body Dualism (Fallen)	Monism (Self-Actualization)
Sociology	Traditional Family, Church, State	Non-traditional Family, Church, State
Law	Divine/Natural Law	Positive Law
Politics	Justice, Freedom, Order	Liberalism (Secular World Government)
Economics	Stewardship of Property	Interventionism
History	Creation, Fall, Redemption	Historical Evolution

**Summit Ministries Condensed Worldview Chart
with explanations:**

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
Source	<i>Bible</i>		<i>Humanist Manifesto I, II, III</i>	
Theology	Theism (Trinitarian)	<p>An intelligent, powerful, loving, just, and awesome God who exists in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God who is both Mind and Heart—who not only created the world, but also loves it so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for it.."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is the "fullness of the Godhead." • Genesis 1:1; Colossians 2:9 	Atheism	There is no God, that science and the scientific process have made God obsolete.
Philosophy	Supernaturalism (Faith and Reason)	<p>The philosophical quest that most appeals to Christians is the attempt to obey 2 Corinthians 10:5, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." What makes philosophy non-Christian, what the Bible refers to as "vain and deceitful philosophy," is basing philosophy upon the "traditions of men, after the basic principles of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8). The single most important philosophical truth in the Bible is</p>	Naturalism	Naturalism says that only matter exists. Since you can't observe God, hell, the human mind or spirit, or conduct experiments on them they can't—and don't—exist.

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
		<p>that Jesus Christ is the Logos (word, or mind) of God. Christian philosophy says Christ the Logos is the explanation for the universe and everything in it. The major charge against Christianity in general and Christian philosophy in particular, is that it is unscientific. Christians claim that the Christian doctrines of God, creation, Logos, design, purpose, law, order and life are reasonable, and consistent with the findings of science, history, and personal experience in a way that the vain and deceitful philosophies of dialectical materialism and philosophical naturalism will never be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is the "Logos of God." • Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; Colossians 1:17; Revelation 19:13 		
Ethics	Moral Absolutes	<p>God's moral nature is absolute and unchanging. God always hates evil and loves good. The Bible is of supreme importance because it tells us the difference between the two, providing a framework on which a completely unambiguous ethics must be built. According to biblical Christianity, ethical relativism leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13). Christian ethics is inseparable from theology for</p>	Moral Relativism	<p>Since the Humanist rejects the existence of God, human beings get to decide on standards and values. These standards will not always be the same, as each person has a different background and reasoning. The Humanist Manifesto II states, "We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing not theological or</p>

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
		<p>the simple reason that Christian ethics is grounded in the character of God. Rather than believing in some ethical scheme bound to society's ever-changing whims, the Christian answers to a specific moral order revealed to man through both general revelation and the special revelation of the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is the "Light" • Genesis 2:9; John 1:9; John 3:19-20 		<p>ideological sanction. Ethics stems from human need and interest."</p>
Biology	Creationism	<p>Only the creationist perspective can adequately account for design in nature, since it postulates a Designer, a law-giver and an orderly cause, while the materialist can only posit chance. Christians believe the creationist model as described in scripture better fits the facts of science than the evolutionary model. Christianity trusts the authority of Genesis and declarations concerning creation, such as Mark 10:6 and Colossians 1:16. Science and Christianity are demonstrated to be compatible and to declare in unison that God "created all things" (Ephesians 3:9). The Bible gives us information about God and His universe; science gives us information about God's universe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is the "Life." 	Neo-Darwinian Evolution	<p>The theory of Neo-Darwinism purports that natural selection acts on the genetic variations within individuals in populations and that mutations (especially random copying errors in DNA) provide the main source of these variations. Because positive mutations seem to be rare, Neo-Darwinism contends that evolution will be a slow, gradual process. Without naturalistic evolution, there is no Secular Humanism.</p>

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genesis 1:17; John 1:4; John 11:25; Colossians 1:16 		
Psychology	Mind/Body Dualism (Fallen)	<p>Only Christianity, with its emphasis on the spiritual and its understanding of man's fallen condition (Romans 1-2) can truly address the innermost concerns of the individual. Christian psychology helps people get in touch with their real selves only because it allows them to recognize their own sinfulness and consequently their need for a Savior. Our greatest need is not self-esteem; rather, it is the realization that we are sinners in rebellion against God. "Christianity starts off," says Kilpatrick, "by saying that we're not OK the way we are. There is something wrong with us—a twist in our natures. And the twist is not removed by liking yourself, but by starting to live in Christ." Only after receiving Christ as Savior can people begin to understand their value as creations in God's image and lead triumphant lives. Rather than demanding that the individual ignore his conscience, the Christian calls for him to recognize that his guilt is real, then to face his guilt and repent. Biblical Christianity teaches moral responsibility, whereas Humanism and Marxism blame</p>	Monism (Self-Actualization)	<p>This psychology focuses on man's inherent goodness and predicts that every individual can achieve mental health through the fulfillment of physical or material needs. This is self-actualization. Monism means that man is only body, that no soul, mind, or conscience exist. If man is only matter, then his actions are simply the result of mechanical impulses.</p>

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
		<p>individual moral failings on society or the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is "Savior." • Luke 1:46–47; Titus 2:13 		
Sociology	Traditional Family, Church, State	<p>Christian sociology is based on the proposition that both the individual and the social order are important to God, mankind and society. Christ died and rose again for each person as an individual; God also ordained social institutions to teach love, respect, discipline, work and community; family, church and state are the three most important of these. Christian sociology focuses both on society as a means for human cooperation in accordance with God's will, and on the individual as a vital part of various social institutions in society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is "Son." • Genesis 4:1; Luke 1:30-31; Isaiah 9:6 	Non-traditional Family, Church, State	<p>Humanists use sociology to explain the huge gulf between their view that man is capable of perfection and the real world of evil. They say civilization and culture shape the individual. Thus, man is evil primarily because his cultural and social environment are evil, not through any fault of his own—society and culture have influenced man's actions and have therefore stifled this inherent goodness. One of the most stifling of human institutions is the family. Government sponsored education provides the most desirable method for abolishing outdated social institutions and ensuring the development of a free society.</p>
Law	Divine/Natural Law	<p>Christian law consists of both natural and divine, or biblical, law originating in the very character of a righteous and loving God. Divine law is eternal because God is eternal. It is so eternal and permanent that someday God will use it to judge the world (Acts 17:31) in a judgment based on natural and revealed law (Romans 2:12f). God established human</p>	Positive Law	<p>In Secular Humanism, the state is given sovereignty, which is entirely rational because there is no higher power to be taken into consideration. Just as man is seen as the final word in ethics, the world state is seen as the only source for legal "truth." The Humanist believes that crime is more the fault of the social order than an inherent flaw in the criminal.</p>

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
		<p>government and the rule of law primarily to keep in check man's sinful nature and passions (Romans 13:1–4). Because of the Fall, human history reflects a continuing effort by men to substitute man-made law for God's law. Christians believe that when God's laws are obeyed, men and societies thrive. The Christian concept of human rights involves the biblical doctrine of man's creation in the image of God. These rights, which carry with them specific responsibilities, are unalienable. God's Word and nature's law are sufficient for mankind to establish a legal system that exemplifies man's creative image, but does not soft-pedal his depravity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is "Lawgiver." • Genesis 3:11; Genesis 49:10; Revelation 5:5; Isaiah 9:7 		
Politics	Justice, Freedom, Order	<p>Biblical Christianity recognizes the state as a God-ordained institution (Genesis 9:6, Romans 13:1–7, 1 Peter 2:13–17). Christianity believes in the depravity of man (Jeremiah 17:9) and his moral responsibility and therefore that government is a necessary institution—even to the imposition of the death penalty (Genesis 9:6, Romans 13:1–4). However, government has</p>	Liberalism (Secular World Government)	<p>Humanists believe that world government is the next logical step on man's evolutionary road to utopia as man is now conscious of his evolution and is responsible to direct it. Also, a goal of Humanism is world peace, and a global state can best achieve it. The state, directed properly, plays a central role in guiding man. As Julian Huxley said, "To have any success in fulfilling his</p>

	Biblical Christianity	Secular Humanism
		<p>limited obligations, not totalitarian powers. The Bible calls for limited government, falling somewhere between no government (anarchy) and total government (totalitarianism). Caesar has his role, but God has also appointed separate roles for the family and the church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." • Psalm 9:6; Luke 1:33; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16
	<p>destiny as the controller or agent of future evolution on earth, [man] must become one single inter-thinking group with one general framework of ideas..."</p>	

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
Economics	Stewardship of Property	<p>Christians begin their economic theory with an assumption about human nature. The Bible declares that man is sinful. Another biblical precept—the concept of justice—also plays an important role for the Christian. The most desirable economic system promotes justice by protecting the rights of individuals from infringement by others. If all men were inherently good, one might not have to worry about individuals denying the rights of others; but man is not inherently good. Therefore, the Christian believes the best economic system would contain basic checks and balances that can guarantee the protection of human rights. Applying this criterion, the Christian believes the free enterprise system to be more compatible with his worldview than other economic systems. Economic systems that check injustice and grant men responsibility—in terms both of private property and economic decisions—can allow men the freedom to act with all the dignity of beings created in God's image. This, according to the Christian view, is the important end of economic theory: offering men not riches or luxury, but the freedom to seek fulfillment through understanding their role in God's universe.</p>	Interventionism	<p>Most Humanists believe in some type of interventionist economy because this is more consistent with their belief that man is an evolving creature who will become capable of planning the perfect economy. Man, who must "save himself," must be in absolute control of all aspects of his universe. Thus, the world's economic system must be strictly controlled through central planning—that is, government must be granted authority over man's economic affairs.</p>

	Biblical Christianity		Secular Humanism	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is "Owner." • Genesis 1:28; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 50:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:26 		
History	Creation, Fall, Redemption	Creation, Fall, Redemption is the view that sees a movement throughout history from the creation of the world, through the Fall of humanity, which destroyed their relationships with God, each other and the world, and finally to the redemption of this world when	Historical Evolution	Humanists view earth's history from a strictly naturalistic vantage point, meaning there has been no supernatural influence. The history of man and the universe is the history of evolutionary activity. Propelled without design by "blind natural selection," history

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		<p>all will be restored back under God's good rule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ is the "Logos made flesh." • Genesis 3:15; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4; 1 Timothy 3:16
	<p>has moved in an upward direction from simplicity to complexity. Some Humanists view Artificial Intelligence—the computer—as the next step in historical evolution.</p>	