

The Christian Worldview

A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions that may be true, partially true, or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.

1. Prime reality: *What is the really real?* – **God**
 - Infinite (Ex 3:14)
 - Personal (Gen 17:18; Jer 31:33)
 - Triune (Mt 28:19)
 - Transcendent – not found in stones, people, etc. but beyond them (Ps 18:15; Ps 33:8; 1 Ti 6:16) – yet...
 - Immanent – he is with us: present (Ps 139: 1-10)
 - Omniscient – Ps 139:1-4; all prophecy
 - Sovereign – Including God’s active interest and intention to rule (Ps 115:3, Ac 4:24ff)
2. External reality: *What is the nature of the world around me?* – **Real, created by God, able to be apprehended**
 - Universe not made out of himself but ex nihilo (Gen 1:3)
 - Uniformity of cause and effect (Gen 1:1-5ff; Is 45:18-19) in an open system (God’s actions and our actions matter)
3. Human nature/being: *What is a human being?* – **Created in the image of God** (Gen 1:26-27)
 - Personality -- Chief aspect of man as it is of God, and gives shape to our need for God
 - Self-conscious (Gen 1-2: Man is the only creature with whom God converses)
 - Self-determination (able to make decisions uncoerced) (Gen 2:15-17; Joshua 24:15)
 - Intelligence (capacity for reason and will)
 - Morality (capacity for reasoning and understanding good and evil)
 - Social capacity (characteristic and fundamental need and desire for human companionship—community—especially represented by the “male and female” aspect)
 - Creativity (capacity to imagine new things or endow old things with new significance) (Gen 2:18-19; Ex 36:1-2)
 - Dignity (as a reflection of the One who dignified us) (Gen 1:28-30; Ps 8:6-8)
 - Fallen (Gen 3) – Impacts, but does not obliterate, all of the above
4. Death: *What happens to a person after death?* – **Gate to life or judgment** (Heb 9:27)
5. Knowing: *Why is it possible to know anything at all?* – **Based on God creating us as knowing creatures and his active communication with us (revelation)**

- As He is the all-knowing knower of all things, so we are the sometimes knowing knowers of some things (Jn 1:1-4)
 - Revelation
 - General (Ps 19:1-2; Ro 1)
 - Specific (the law and the testimony; Jesus himself (Heb 1:1))
6. Ethics: *How do we know what is right and wrong?* – **Ethics are transcendent, based on character (and revealed will) of God as good (holy and loving) (Lv 19:2; Ex 34:6)**
- Ten Commandments, Sermon on the Mount, commands of the apostles
 - Jesus himself
7. History: *What is the meaning of human history?* – **History is linear, the fulfillment of God's purposes for humanity**
- Creation – Good, perfect image (Gen 1:31)
 - Fall – Broken image (Gen 3)
 - Redemption – Image being restored (2 Co 5:17; Ro 8:19-23)

Glorification – Image completely restored (Col 3:4, 1 Jn 3:2)