



Understanding Worldviews



Starting the Conversation: What Is Your Worldview?

Begin with a question that sparks reflection:
“If someone asked you what your worldview is, what would you say?”

While some may respond with “Christian worldview,” many people might be stumped. The reality is, everyone has a worldview—even if they can’t name it. It’s not optional. It’s how we make sense of everything—from relationships to suffering, from death to hope.

Why Worldviews Matter

Worldviews are not just philosophical ideas—they have real-world consequences. When we watch global conflicts like the wars in Ukraine or Gaza, we each interpret them through a lens. That lens shapes what we believe about justice, blame, and possible solutions. In times of crisis, we all become armchair philosophers—looking for meaning, even if unconsciously.

Contrasting Worldviews

Not everyone sees the world the same way.

- Richard Dawkins describes the universe as “blind, pitiless indifference,” a place without justice or meaning.
- Others believe in a personal God who is involved in human affairs.
- Still others turn to ideas of fate, energy, or cosmic coincidence.

Each of these reflects a deeper worldview—one that informs how they see reality.



What Is a Worldview?

A worldview is like a pair of glasses or a picture frame—it brings clarity and context.

Nancy Pearcey offers a helpful two-part definition:

- A worldview is a perception of reality
- And it is a basis for decision-making

In short: your worldview is both how you interpret the world and how you act in it.

The Ultimate Questions Every Worldview Answers

Every worldview tries to answer the same deep questions:

- Origins – Where did everything come from?
- Meaning – Why are we here?
- Morality – What is right and wrong?
- Destiny – What happens after death?
- Identity – Who am I? What is a human being?

Whether people articulate it or not, their answers to these shape how they live, vote, relate, and dream.



The Three Big Realities Shaped by Worldview

Our worldview touches every area of life, but especially three fundamental realities:

1. God – Who or what is ultimate reality?
2. Humanity – What does it mean to be human?
3. Nature – What is the world around us, and how do we relate to it?

These can be seen as upward (God), inward (ourselves and others), and outward (creation). How we answer one shapes how we answer the rest.

Confronting the Question of God

If you believe there is no God, you must still explain morality, beauty, and the longing for transcendence. If you do believe in God, further questions follow:

- Is He personal or impersonal?
- Is He involved or distant?
- Can He communicate—and does He want to?

If God created us, then we are accountable to Him. That realization changes everything.

Wrestling with Humanity

As Reinhold Niebuhr put it, “Man has always been his own most vexing problem.”

We are self-aware beings who ask: Why am I here? What is my value?

Why do I feel both drawn to good and yet prone to do wrong?

Our view of humanity impacts how we treat others, how we raise children, how we build communities, and how we view justice and compassion.



Engaging with Nature

Ancient cultures illustrate how worldview shapes our relationship with the natural world:

- Egyptians saw nature as orderly and benevolent, leading to stability and grand architecture.
- Mesopotamians saw nature as chaotic and threatening, which shaped their fatalistic view of life.

Today, our worldview determines whether we seek to steward creation or control it for our own ends.

Worldview and Culture

Charles Kraft reminds us that worldviews are often shared and cultural. We absorb our worldview long before we can articulate it.

Everything from how we greet one another to how we view marriage and death is shaped by invisible worldview assumptions passed down through culture.

The Link Between Worldview and Culture

Culture is the outward expression; worldview is the inward map.

- Culture is what an anthropologist observes—customs, rituals, behaviors.
- Worldview is what explains why those customs exist.

Worldviews are transmitted generationally, shaping not just what people do, but what they believe is right to do.



A Biblical Worldview: Seeking Truth from the Outside

In the Father Brown mystery stories, the priest often says, “There are many explanations that fit the evidence. What we want to know is: which one is right?”

That’s the heart of a biblical worldview. It doesn’t just try to “fit” what we observe—it claims to be true, because it is revealed from outside ourselves.

The Bible gives us more than inspiration—it gives us:

- A story of origins
- A reason for suffering
- A remedy for evil
- A vision of destiny

A biblical worldview is not invented—it’s received. It rests on two core truths:

- God exists, and
- God has revealed Himself and His will through Scripture

These truths will be explored further in upcoming sessions, but for now, they form the foundation from which we see and engage the world.

This kind of self-awareness is essential to developing an intentional, biblical worldview.



Practical Takeaways: Living with Worldview Awareness

Understanding worldviews isn't just for philosophers or theologians—it shapes how we live every day. Here are some practical implications of what we've explored:

1. Start Recognizing Your Own Lens

Be aware that you don't just see the world—you see it through something. Begin identifying the assumptions you carry about God, people, and life. Ask yourself, Why do I think this is true? Where did I learn this? Awareness is the first step to wisdom.

2. Ask Better Questions

Instead of simply reacting to events, pause and ask: What does this reveal about how someone sees the world? Train yourself to listen for worldview assumptions behind people's words—whether in conversations, media, or culture.

3. Be Gracious Toward Others' Worldviews

Everyone is on a journey of making sense of life. Instead of being combative, be curious. Engage with gentleness, understanding that others may never have examined the lens through which they see the world.

4. Align Your Life with What You Believe

If you claim a biblical worldview, ask: Does my life reflect it? For example, if God is creator and judge, does that affect how I live, work, treat others, or view death? Make intentional decisions that flow from your deepest beliefs—not just emotions or trends.

5. Evaluate the Cultural Messages You Absorb

From social media to entertainment, messages about identity, success, morality, and destiny are everywhere. Don't just consume—critically evaluate. Ask: What worldview is being promoted here? Does it align with truth?

6. Develop a Biblical Framework for Daily Life

Begin filtering your decisions—big and small—through a biblical lens. Whether it's career choices, handling money, or navigating relationships, ask: What does Scripture say about this? What would it look like to trust God here?

7. Help the Next Generation Articulate Their Worldview

If you're mentoring or raising others, help them name and shape their worldview. Don't assume they've absorbed a Christian worldview just because they go to church. Give them tools to ask questions, engage culture, and think biblically.

8. Stay Rooted in God's Revelation

A biblical worldview is not just reasoned—it is revealed. Stay grounded in Scripture. Let God's Word renew your mind and give you a lens that sees both truth and grace clearly.



Discussion Questions

1. Which of the five ultimate questions (origins, meaning, morality, destiny, identity) do you personally wrestle with the most? Why?
2. Can you think of a movie, news story, or cultural practice that reflects a specific worldview? What assumptions does it carry?
3. Have you ever realized your worldview in conflict with someone else's? How did you respond?
4. In what ways do you think your upbringing shaped your view of reality?
5. What does it mean to seek a worldview that “fits the world” rather than just one that “fits me”?



About the Speaker

Nathan Andrews has been involved in the hospitality and real estate development industries for over 30 years. From setting up the first training offices for the Oberoi Hotels in Egypt and Iraq to heading the business and development activity at Lavasa, his roles have been diverse while spanning four continents and over 20 countries. Along the way, he has opened multiple luxury hotels, developed food and beverage concepts, operationalised India's first shopping mall, planned and marketed real estate townships, and also set up educational institutions and theme parks. Through all of this, he has been a part of the local church and sought to follow the Lord in the marketplace.

An alumnus of Said Business School, Oxford, and a member of the Institute of Directors, he currently serves on the Board of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (OCMS), RZIM India, CBMC India and Asia, and The Bethany Trust. Nathan serves as the Interim CEDO of Life Focus Society and is the author of the book, Force Majeure.



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