

A Worldview Based on Truth

Steve Turner sarcastically illustrates this by saying, “We believe that each man must find the Truth that’s right for him and that reality will adapt accordingly. The universe will readjust; history will alter. We believe that there is no absolute truth except the truth that there is no absolute truth.”

Merriam-Webster defines truth as: *The real state of things, fact; the body of real events or facts, actuality; agreement with fact or reality.*

C.S Lewis writes, “An open mind about things that are not ultimate is useful. But an open mind about the ultimate foundations of either theoretical or practical reason is idiocy. If a man’s mind is open on these things let his mouth at least be shut.”

1. **A correct worldview must correspond with reality.**
 - a. **Your worldview is basically your outlook on life.**
 - b. **A worldview determines interaction with reality which determines consequences.**
 - i. Bad worldview (incorrect view of reality) → incorrect interactions with reality → bad consequences
 - ii. Good worldview (correct view of reality) → correct interactions with reality → good consequences
 - c. **Example:** There is a truth about big cliffs called the law of gravity. A worldview which agrees with this objective, absolute truth will direct you to avoid falling off the cliff. The consequence will be that you continue living. If, however, your worldview does not correspond with the reality of the big cliff you’ll probably end up in pretty bad shape.
 - d. **Today we’ll discuss 4 main types of worldviews:** Atheism, agnosticism, religion and Christianity.
2. **People desire to live a life which corresponds with reality.**
 - a. Ex: The reality TV craze.
 - b. People hate hypocrites and fakes.
 - c. People desire and expect stability.
 - i. If your professor gives you an F for an A+ paper you’ll probably make a stink about it.
3. **Reality exists therefore truth exists!!!**
 - a. **Truth is simply what is real about things.**
 - i. If things exist, objective, absolute truth about them must also exist.
 - ii. If objective, absolute truth does not exist, neither does reality.
 - b. **Denial of absolute truth is a logical fallacy.**
 1. In the same moment one claims truth does not exist one believes their statement is true.
4. **Atheistic worldview – founded on absolute denial of the existence of God.**
 - a. **Atheism is an illogical position** – an absolute negation requires that you know everything about the universe – something which is impossible.
 - b. Atheism provides no viable theory for the origin of matter, life and reality.
 - i. Matter has not “just always existed.”
 1. The moment Einstein calculated that the universe was still expanding he realized that meant there was a beginning to the universe and therefore a creator also.
 - ii. Evolution is a failed theory, and doesn’t even attempt to describe the origin of matter and reality.
 1. There is no mechanism for evolution of the genome – only reorganization within the genome.
 - iii. Evolution never provides a theory of the origin of matter itself.
 - c. Atheism describes death as our final destiny.
 - d. Atheism provides no absolute foundation for moral choices.
 - i. Relativism does not correspond with reality.
 1. The big cliff doesn’t change according to your perception of it.
 - ii. Some claim logic alone will guide moral choices.
 1. What about different and opposing logic concerning morality?
 - a. People using the same laws of logic often come to very different moral conclusions.
 2. Where does the atheist claim the laws of logic arise from?
 - e. The outcomes of correct application of an atheistic worldview confirm its fallacy.
 - i. Stalin, Hitler and Mao Tse-Tung are just a few of the ruthless murderers that carried atheism to its natural applications.

Aristotle said, “All I need to prove this to you is for you to open your mouth.”

Ravi Zacharius explains, “Challenge truth’s exclusivity and you’ve just proved its exclusivity because you believe your statement is true.”

Ravi Zacharius describes it this way, “Atheism is a self negating absolute. It is a logical fallacy to make an absolute negation in the absolute sense. All absolute negations are unsustainable logical fallacies.”

C.S. Lewis writes, "Now that I am a Christian I do not have moods in which the whole thing looks very improbable but when I was an atheist I had moods in which Christianity looked terribly probable."

- f. Atheism is a logical fallacy, it provides no reasonable theory for the existence of matter, life or reality, it provides no direction on moral issues and it does not logically correspond with reality.

5. **Agnostic worldview - founded on the inability of knowing.**

- a. Agnosticism is illogical in that it denies the possibility of knowing.
 - i. Knowledge is gained and reality can be known in varying degrees of certainty.
 - 1. Ex. You know jumping off a big cliff can kill you.
- b. Agnosticism provides no theory for the existence of matter, life or reality (other than what we already discussed under atheism).
- c. Agnosticism provides no theory concerning our destiny.
- d. An agnostic worldview provides no foundation for making decisions (especially concerning morality).
 - i. Again, relativism does not correspond with reality.
 - ii. Lack of knowledge → lack of ability to make correct value judgments.
- e. The outcomes of correct application of an agnostic worldview confirm its fallacy.
 - i. A true agnostic worldview provides no basis for decisions or action.
- f. Agnosticism is a logical fallacy, it provides no reasonable theory for the existence of matter, life or reality, it provides no direction on moral issues and it does not logically correspond with reality.

C.S Lewis writes, "A great many of those who debunk traditional... values have in the background values of their own which they believe to be immune from the debunking process."

6. **Religious worldview – founded on idea of the ability of man to become good.**

- a. Most religion is illogical in that it supposes that man can become good alone.
- b. Most religious worldviews provide a theory for the existence of matter, life and reality, an eternal destiny and some basis for decisions and morality.
- c. The outcome of religion is a failed attempt at perfection which leads to disillusionment, confusion, self righteousness and much more.
 - i. Examples: "Christian" holy wars and Islamic Jihad (September 11, 2001).
- d. Most religion is illogical in that it contradicts thousands of years of recorded history which accurately describe the fallen nature of man.

Malcom Mugridge writes, "The depravity of man is at once the most empirically verifiable reality but at the same time the most intellectually resisted fact."

7. **Christian worldview - stands in stark contrast with all of these others.**

- a. **The Bible is logically consistent and corresponds well with reality.**
 - i. Scientifically accurate (just a few examples):
 - 1. Radioactive decay (2Peter 3:10)
 - 2. Hydrologic cycles (Ps.135:7, Ec.1:7, Job 36:27-29)
 - 3. Atmospheric jet streams (Ecc. 1:6)
 - 4. Clouds and condensation (Job 26:8, 37:11)
 - 5. Earth's spherical shape (Job 40:22)
 - 6. The expansion of the universe (Job 26:7)
 - 7. The impossibility of numbering the stars (Jer. 33:22)
 - 8. Earth hung on nothing (Job 26:7)
 - 9. That air has weight (Job 28:25)
 - 10. Hydrothermic vents (Gen. 7:11, Job. 38:16)
 - 11. That like begets like – a biological law (Gen. 1:11-12, 21, 25)
 - 12. The chemical composition of "flesh" –the same compounds other matter consists of – described as dust (Gen. 2:7, 3:19)
 - 13. That blood is vitally important for life (Lev. 17:11)
 - 14. That one event could be seen across the world – an impossibility then – now possible through TV (Mt. 24:30, Rev. 11:9-11)
 - ii. Prophetically accurate (just a few examples).
 - 1. Jesus alone fulfilled over 300 (odds of just 8 = 1 in 10^{17}).
 - 2. Jesus' crucifixion prophesied 1000 years before crucifixion was even invented (Ps. 22:16).
 - 3. Alexander the Great, his reign, demise and the events, which followed his death (Great warrior from the West → early death → empire split

four ways → 4 empires combined into 2 - the Tolomaic and the Selucid → these 2 combined into the Roman) – prophesied in such detail critics called it post written history until it was discovered that Alexander had even been given a copy of the book of Daniel – this was reported by Josephus (Daniel 8:5-12).

4. Cyrus rebuilding Jerusalem and its temple prophesied 100 years before Cyrus’ birth and 100 years before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem (Is.44:28).
 5. Tyre’s destruction prophesied in great detail: Tyre will be destroyed, made as bare as a rock, a place where fisherman dry their nets, rubble throne into the sea and it will never be rebuilt (Ez. 26).
- iii. Historically accurate (a few examples).
 1. Hitites – critics condemned the Bible’s description of this group; archeological digs have since proven the existence of these people.
 2. Caesar Augustus’ census around the time of Christ’s birth (Luke 2:1).
 - iv. Mathematic, sequential and prophetic codes.
 1. Mathematical codes (prime number multiples in words, sentences, passages and books) and sequential codes throughout.
 - a. Prophetic codes embedded in the text.
 - v. Authors agree (over 40 authors of different backgrounds, times, social status, languages and ethnic groups).
 - vi. Bible is textually authentic (here is a quick comparison with Homer’s Illiad – the next closest textually accurate manuscript).
 1. The NT has copies from AD 125 (~25-70 years after written), The Illiad’s earliest copy is from 400 BC (500 years after written).
 2. NT has 24,000 early copies (~200 yrs) vs. Illiad’s 643.
 - vii. The Bible has the power to change human beings.
 - b. **The Bible provides a coherent description of the origin of matter, life and reality.**
 - i. The Bible tells us matter, life and reality were created by an intelligent designer.
 1. This corresponds well with the intricate order, detailed information and intelligent design found in the universe.
 - c. **The Bible provides a detailed theory of destiny.**
 - i. **You were**
 - d. **The Bible describes a logical basis for morality.**
 - i. God’s laws are provided for our good.
 - ii. These laws correspond with universal ideas of right and wrong.
 1. There is a universal knowledge of a perfect standard.
 - iii. These laws correspond with the rules of logic (Compare to Kant).
 1. Ex. Kant’s logical morality identical to Jesus’ “golden rule” (Mt.7:12).
 - e. **The outcome of true Christianity is love, putting others first – imitating Christ.**
 - f. **Christianity is logical**, it provides a coherent description of the origin of matter, life and reality, it provides a logical basis for moral choices – it corresponds well with reality.

8. What are the predominant worldviews in America today?

- a. Most people don’t believe in absolute Truth.
 - i. Barna Research Group found (¹Sep. 2002, ²⁻³Dec. 2003, ⁴Jan. 2004):
 1. 64% of adults and 83% of teens believe truth is relative while only 22% and 6% of those respective groups believe in absolute truth.
 2. Only 4% of American adults have a Biblical worldview.
 3. Only 9% of born again Christians have a Biblical worldview.
 4. Only 51% of protestant pastors have a Biblical worldview.
 - ii. The December 2003 study also found that worldviews have a major impact on people’s morality.
 1. 62% of those without a Biblical worldview condone premarital sex as opposed to 2% of those with a Biblical worldview.

Simon Greely, famed Prof. at Harvard Law School writes,
 “You may choose at the end of your investigative processes of the New Testament to say, “I choose not to believe it.” But you may not reserve the right to say, “Because there is not enough evidence to believe it.”

2. 31% of those without a Biblical worldview condone gay sex as opposed to 2% of those with a Biblical worldview.
3. 44% of those without a Biblical worldview condone adultery as opposed to 4% of those with a Biblical worldview.
4. 36% of those without a Biblical worldview condone drunkenness as opposed to 2% of those with a Biblical worldview.
5. 39% of those without a Biblical worldview condone pornography as opposed to 0.5% of those with a Biblical worldview.
6. 46% of those without a Biblical worldview condone abortion as opposed to 0.5% of those with a Biblical worldview.

9. Where do you stand?

a. **If you're a Christian get serious and commit to the truth.**

- i. Don't be in that confused and frustrated 91% of Christians without a Biblical worldview.
 1. True meaning, purpose and fulfillment start with a correct worldview.
- ii. Stand on the solid ground of the Word – make decisions based on fact not feeling.
- iii. The truth is always right – don't fear it!

b. **If you're not a Christian – investigate Christ's claims and the Biblical worldview.**

- i. True searching is great – God gave you a mind and He doesn't want that wasted.
- ii. Don't just doubt to doubt or because your present worldview requires that.
- iii. The Biblical worldview is logical, coherent and corresponds well with reality.
- iv. The Biblical worldview boils down to 4 main laws about reality:
 1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life (Jer.29:11, 31:3, Jn.3:16, 10:10)
 2. Man is sinful and separated from God (Rom.3:23, 6:10).
 3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin (**Jn.14:6**, Rom. 5:8).
 4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Jn. 1:12, Eph. 2:8-9).

G.K Chesterton notes,
“The fact that he doubts everything gets in his way when he wants to denounce anything – for all denunciation implies a moral doctrine of some kind. The modern revolutionist doubts not only the institution, which he denounces, but also the doctrine by which he denounces it.”