


**Understanding Worldviews**  
*Kerby Anderson*

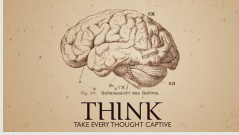


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**Biblical Foundation**

“We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).




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**Biblical Foundation**

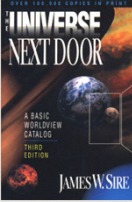
“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).



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**What is a Worldview?**



A worldview is a set of presuppositions which we hold about the basic makeup of our world.  
James Sire

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**What is a Worldview?**

“A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or a set of presuppositions which we hold about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.”

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**What is a Worldview?**

- Every one of us has a worldview, whether we can explain it or not.
- Who has a worldview?
- We are faced with a supermarket of world views, all claiming to be true.

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### WHAT'S YOUR WORLDVIEW?

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### Worldviews

- Christian Theism
- Deism
- Naturalism
- Nihilism
- Existentialism
- Eastern Pantheistic Monism
- The New Age

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### World Religions

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### World Religions

- Animism
- Baha'i
- Buddhism
- Confucianism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Taoism

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### Three Worldviews

- Theism  
Christianity, Islam, Judaism
- Naturalism  
Humanism, Marxism, Existentialism
- Pantheism  
Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age Movement

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## Testing Worldviews

1. Why is there something rather than nothing?
2. How do you explain human nature?
3. How do you know that you know?
4. How do you determine what is right or wrong?
5. What is the meaning of history?
6. What happens to a person at death?

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## Summit Ministries

Category	Issue	Secular Position	Christian Position	Other Positions	Pro- Christian Position
Philosophy	Metaphysics (What is reality?)	Materialism	Supernaturalism	Deism	Supernaturalism
Epistemology	How do we know what we know?	Rationalism	Revelation	Empiricism	Revelation
Ethics	How should we live?	Moral Relativism	Moral Absolutism	Moral Relativism	Moral Absolutism
Politics	How should we govern?	Secularism	Christianity	Secularism	Christianity
Science	How do we understand the natural world?	Naturalism	Supernaturalism	Naturalism	Supernaturalism
History	How do we understand the past?	Historicism	Historicism	Historicism	Historicism
Law	How do we resolve disputes?	Common Law	Common Law	Common Law	Common Law
Art	How do we create beauty?	Art for Art's Sake	Art with Purpose	Art for Art's Sake	Art with Purpose
Education	How do we teach the young?	Humanism	Christianity	Humanism	Christianity
Environment	How do we care for the earth?	Anthropocentrism	Theocentrism	Anthropocentrism	Theocentrism
Warfare	How do we deal with conflict?	Realism	Just War Theory	Realism	Just War Theory

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## Testing Worldviews

- **Correspondence Test** - does the worldview correspond to reality?
- **Consistency Test** - does the belief system hold together in a logically consistent manner?
- **Comprehensiveness Test** - does the worldview explain the relevant data?
- **Verification Test** - Can the truth claims of the worldview be verified or falsified?

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## Christian World View

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## Christian World View

- Monotheism
- Creation ex nihilo
- Supernaturalism
- Revelation
- Human's Need
- Human Nature
- Human Destiny

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## Naturalism

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## Naturalism


- Atheism/Deism
- Evolution
- Materialism
- Human Autonomy
- Human Reason
- Science



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## Naturalism



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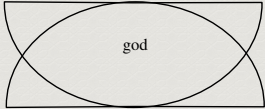
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## Pantheism



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## Pantheism


- Monism
- Pantheism
- Human Divinity
- Cosmic Consciousness
- Reincarnation
- Moral Relativism



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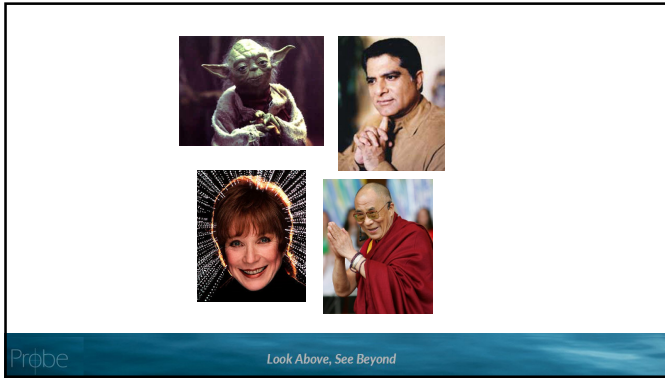
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## Pantheism



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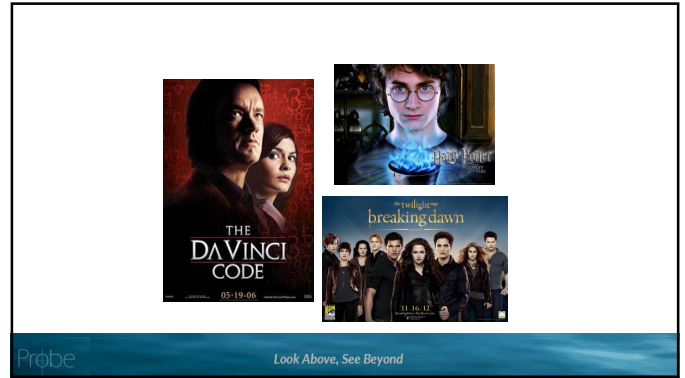
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## Summary

- Naturalism says there is no god. Therefore, you need to become your own god to guide you through life.
- Pantheism says there is no transcendent god. God is not external but internal. You are god.
- In essence there are only really two different worldviews: the belief that you are god and the belief that God is God.

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