

**APOLOGETICS - DEFENDING OUR FAITH AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION**

**LESSON 3: WORLDVIEWS I - KEY ISSUES OF A WORLDVIEW**

**REVIEW**

- +We have to “always be prepared” to defend our faith (1 Pet 3:14b-16 Acts 22:1 etc.)
- +We must not abandon our faith in argument in order to be “neutral”.
- +The unbeliever is not neutral and (Rom 1:18) we must not be (Prov.26:4).
- +Everybody has a worldview = elementary presuppositions
- +Ours must be Christian in all we do-words, thoughts and deeds. (Mk 12:30 etc.)

**EXAMPLE:**

Biology (B) professor attacks a Christian student in class.

B: You are a Christian, right?

Christian (C), “That’s right - how can I help you?”

B: Why do you deny science?

C: I don’t deny science.

B: In being a Christian you do deny science.

C: How that?

B: You cannot uphold your anti-intellectual Sunday school faith against science. There is no God!

C: How do you know that?

B: It is science! Now put aside your ridiculous faith for a minute a look at the facts. Be scientific!!

C: What do you mean by science?

B: With science I mean observations from which we derive theses and theories.

C: How can you do that?

B: We have observations and laws of nature with which we can calculate, derive and predict.

C: Which laws of nature?

B: Everybody knows there are laws of nature - like gravity etc.

C: Everybody knows it - therefore it is true? Is this science? “Truth by majority-vote?”

B: We see the laws of nature over and over again - therefore we know.

C: But why do you think that the laws of nature always have worked in the same way and also how do you know if they will still work the same way tomorrow or even in a minute? Which guarantee do you have?

B: They have always worked and they will always work.

C: I know that but how do you?

B: The law of probability. Since they have worked for so long they will work in the future.

C: Nope...

B: Why not.

C: The law of probability is a law of nature itself and you cannot use the fact you are trying to prove as its very proof - that’s circular reasoning.

B: I just know the laws of nature apply and I know that Evolution is true because....

C: ...Because you are a believer too - you have basic beliefs which you cannot derive from anywhere. Your belief is, “There is no God.” Each single fact you interpret with this presupposition. Even if somebody from the dead came to you and told you to repent you would try to find **not a scientific but a materialistic explanation. What you call science I call materialism - a materialism you cannot even uphold consistently because the laws of nature or logic are not materialistic and you still try to use them.**

B: But you use them too!

C: Sure - my God has created them and He lets me know that he will uphold them (Gen1; Gen.8:22; Heb.1:3; James1:17; ). He is a God of order in Whom there is no change Without Him you cannot account for anything - laws of nature, ethics, logic...

**EVERYBODY HAS PRESUPPOSITIONS = EVERYBODY HAS A**

**WORLDVIEW**

## **KEY ISSUES OF A WORLDVIEW: I. Metaphysics, II. Epistemology, III. Ethics**

We have to look out for these in interacting with the unbeliever.

*Everybody “does” philosophy, but not everybody does it well.* (Bahnsen)

### **I. METAPHYSICS: (*meta*: “after/beyond” *physika*: “physics/nature”)-nature of reality**

1. The study of the ultimate nature of reality, the origin, structure, and nature of what is real.
2. Asks what the world is like and what man’s place is in that world.
3. Metaphysics looks behind the external world of sense and experience, seeking to discern what **accounts for** the physical world - to understand the world as a whole.
4. **Questions of metaphysics:**
  - a) What does it mean to exist? What sorts of things exist?
  - b) What is the nature of man? Is he free? Good? An animal?
  - c) What is the nature of the universe? Objectively real or simply appearance?
  - d) Does God exist? Who or what is he and his relation to the universe?
  - e) Do things change or develop? How? What is history?
  - f) What is the character of the laws or concepts that govern reality? Are they changing? Universal? What are the limits of possibility?
5. **2 kinds of metaphysics:**
  - a) **Believer:** Christian doctrine e.g. Creation - Fall - Consummation etc.
  - b) **Unbeliever:** Same issues - just secular = Christian theology in “secular dress”.
6. **The Christians’ metaphysics is biblically determined:** All of Scripture rests on the assumption that the tangible world actually exists and that is what it is because of God’s original creative activity and continuing providential governance (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3). It teaches that all things were created by and for God (Rom. 11:36; Rev. 4:11) and directs you in properly understanding and interpreting the world as a God-created and -governed system. [Bahnsen]  
  
Ps. 36:9b - “In your light we see light”: That’s how Christians do metaphysics. Everything finds its explanation in **God. He** is the starting point of the universe.
7. **Non-Christian: No account for anything - everything is chance.** Can something miraculously pop out of nothing - he says “No”. And after billions of years - he says “Yes”.  
Van Til: “If one zero equals zero, then a billion zeros can equal only zero.”