

What Is A Worldview Anyway And Do I Have One?

Dr. Danny Akin

President

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

And He (Jesus) said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and *with all your mind.*”

- Matthew 22:37

“God is no fonder of intellectual slackers than any other slackers. If you are thinking of becoming a Christian, I warn you, you are embarking on something which is going to take the whole of you, brains and all.”

- C. S. Lewis

Five Crucial Questions

- 1) What is a worldview?
- 2) What does a worldview do?
- 3) What are the main worldview competitors seeking my allegiance?
- 4) What does one’s worldview have to do with one’s source of authority for life?
- 5) What difference does my worldview really make?

1) What is a worldview?

“A worldview is a comprehensive view of life through which we think, understand, and judge, and which determines our approach to life, meaning, and decision-making.”

- Danny Akin

2) What does a worldview do?

Five Basic Functions of a Worldview

1. A worldview seeks to provide a coherent and organized thought system.
2. A worldview attempts to define the “good life,” thereby bringing hope and meaning to life.
3. Worldviews bring sense to life by offering explanations for the seemingly irrational events that occur in life.
4. Worldviews determine our values.
5. A worldview guides actions by assigning values and priorities to those actions.

3) What are the main worldview competitors competing for my allegiance?

7 Basic Theistic Worldviews

1. Atheism - No god exists beyond (transcendence) or in (immanence) the universe.
2. Polytheism - There are many gods in the universe.
3. Pantheism - God IS the universe.
4. Panentheism - God is IN the universe.
5. Finite Theism - A Finite God exists beyond and in the universe.
6. Deism - God exists beyond the universe, but not in it supernaturally.
7. Theism - A personal, infinite God is beyond the universe, but also acts within it.

4) What does one's worldview have to do with one's source of authority for life?

Five Sources of Authority

1. Reason – I do what I do because I think this is right.
2. Experience – I do what I do because I feel this is right.
3. Tradition – I do what I do because this is the way it has always been done.
4. Peer Pressure – I do what I do because others are doing it.
5. Revelation – I do what I do, think the way I think, and live the way I live, because God says so.

5) What difference does my worldview really make?

- “I regard Christianity as the most fatal and seductive lie that has ever existed – as the greatest and most impious lie... I urge people to declare open war with it.”
– Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Will to Power*
- Christianity is “a religion for losers.”
– Ted Turner, Atheist billionaire
- *He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*
- Jim Elliott, Missionary and Christian martyr
- *For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.*
- Apostle Paul (Phil. 1:21)