

What in the World Is Going On?

Introduction

Many claim that they are “Not religious.” However, each individual inevitably has a belief system. How do people around us grapple with life’s tough questions? How might different belief systems in our culture subtly influence us and other Christians? What does Christianity offer that other worldviews cannot? This Bible study is based in part on the book, *What in the World Is Going On?*¹ This study will consider a few of those belief systems, or worldviews, that are common in our society. It is the goal that we grow in our certainty of what Christ has done for us and all people. It's also our goal to better understand our neighbors' worldviews and be prepared to give an answer for the hope we have in Christ!

What exactly is a *worldview*?

What shapes a person’s worldview(s)?

What different worldviews do you encounter on a regular basis? (At this point in the study, this may be a hard question).

As a Christian, how often am I subtly influenced by worldviews that are incompatible with Scripture?

Why is a Christian concerned about worldviews?

Read Colossians 2:8. This is likely a difficult topic for many Christians today because our society teaches us to embrace a wide variety of worldviews as equally valid. As Christians, we must identify worldviews that are contrary to the gospel and therefore we can’t embrace them as “equally valid.” We have to call them what they are: “Hollow and deceptive.” It will be helpful to keep in mind the following points:

Can I embrace a culture without embracing false worldviews?

Agree or disagree: “As a Christian, I am sometimes called to be countercultural.” (1 Peter 1:17)

Read 2 Corinthians 10:5. What phrases in this passage catch your attention as we discuss worldviews?

As we talk about worldviews what should our “peopleview” be? (Matthew 9:35-38)

¹ Thompson, David C. “What in the World Is Going On?” Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee (2010).

Common questions answered by worldviews

We're all cut from the same cloth. We are born into this world with the same human/sinful nature as everyone else. By nature, every human being seeks to answer certain existential questions. The following are questions that a worldview seeks to answer:²

1. *How does a worldview understand the Prime Reality—that which has always existed and explains all the others.*
2. *How does a worldview understand the source of knowledge and truth? How does it claim to know truth and right from wrong?*
3. *How does a worldview understand and explain the universe—how and why it exists?*
4. *How does a worldview understand man and his relationship to the Prime Reality and the Universe?*
5. *How does a worldview understand and explain evil?*
6. *What is a worldview's solution for evil?*
7. *How does a worldview understand the future, the final reality, or the end game?*
8. *How is a worldview reflected in various disciplines and various media?*

In future lessons, we will see how different worldviews try to answer those questions. For today, consider how you would answer each of those questions according to your biblical worldview. Imagine that you are sitting in a coffee shop with someone who has a completely different worldview. How would you communicate your faith to that person?

What examples can you recount, either from Scripture or from your own experience, that your biblical worldview is not merely a belief system of one specific culture or ethnic group?

Is there a particular worldview or aspect of our culture you hope to address in this study?

² Thompson, p. 12,13.