

Contending with our Culture

Developing a strong Biblical worldview in light of modern science

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You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. – Jesus, Luke 10:27

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. – Paul, Romans 12:2

Overview: Your *worldview*, loosely, is the set of ideas and beliefs that define how you understand and interact with everything. By analyzing personal questions of importance, this set of studies is intended to help you build confidence in the evidence for the Christian worldview with the goal of moving your, and others', worldview closer to *truth*.

Desired Outcomes: Upon completion of this study, you should have a deeper understanding of topics foundational to the Christian worldview specifically contrasted to our culture's scientific worldview. It is my goal that you use this understanding for the primary purpose of glorifying God through, at minimum, three outcomes: 1) increased faith in God and His revealed truth; 2) better ability to evaluate non-Biblical worldview and defend the Christian worldview (apologetics); and 3) increased ability and motivation to share the truth with others (evangelism).

The "ologies" of a worldview:¹

- 1) Ontology: Study of *being* (What is *real*?)
 - a. Past (explanation)
 - b. Present (no duration)
 - c. Future (prediction)
- 2) Epistemology: Study of *knowing* (How do we *know* true and false?)
 - a. Self-evident knowledge
 - b. Logic and reason
 - c. Empiricism
- 3) Axiology: Study of values (What is *best*?)
- 4) Praxeology: Study of actions (What should we *do*?)

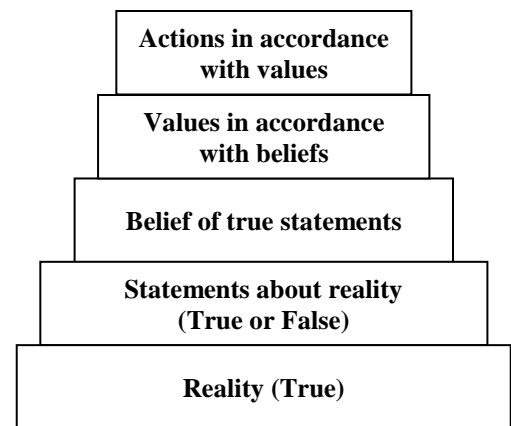


Figure 1: Well-reasoned and justifiable actions should be grounded, ultimately, on reality (truth).

Tentative list of topics:

- Foundations of knowledge: from *natural* to *special* revelation
- Contemporary views of origins: big bang, multiverses, quantum mechanics
- The age of the universe: uniformity of natural law, speed of light, other constants
- The age of the earth: geological ages, radioisotope dating, age of the solar system
- The age of life: carbon dating, geological dating, fossils
- Entropy and scientific eschatology; the second law of thermodynamics
- Determinism vs. chance; predestination vs. free will
- Evolution: science and philosophy

¹ Adapted from Vidal, C. (2008) Wat is een wereldbeeld? (What is a worldview?), in Van Belle, H. & Van der Veken, J., Editors, Nieuwheid denken. De wetenschappen en het creatieve aspect van de werkelijkheid, in press. Acco, Leuven. http://cogprints.org/6094/2/Vidal_2008-what-is-a-worldview.pdf