

Title: Does your Worldview pass the test?

Key verse: Acts 17:28-31(NIV) 28 **'For in him we live and move and have our being.'** As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' 29Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. 30In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof to this to all men by raising him from the dead.

Weltanschauung aka Worldview - Hunter Mead (*Types and Problems of Philosophy*) defines:

[a]n **all-inclusive** world-view or outlook. A somewhat poetic term to indicate either an **articulated** system of philosophy **or** a *more or less* **unconscious** attitude toward life and the world...

articulated

- **interconnected, hangs together,**
- **fluent = can be expressed in ways others can understand.**

Tests: Rational, Evidenced, Comprehensive, Livable

Sigmund Freud's take:

"...an intellectual construction which solves all the problems of our existence uniformly on the basis of one overriding hypothesis, which, accordingly, leaves no question unanswered and in which everything that interests us finds its fixed place."

Problems of our existence - Existential questions

- Who...?
- Where...?
- What...?
- Why...?
- How...?

A worldview = a picture of reality (WHAT DO WE KNOW?) is combined with a sense of its meaning and value (HOW DO WE FEEL?) and with principles of action (WHAT DO WE DO?)

Faith ≈ worldview issue.

Hebrews 11:1-2 Now faith is being **sure** of what **we hope for** and **certain of** what **we do not see**. This is what the ancients were commended for.

Faith's "good soils"	Greek – good soil reception of seed ("Word", "message about the kingdom", "word of God")	"Faith" words in Latin	<i>Metanoia</i> = biblical repentance = change of:
Matthew 13:23	<i>Suniemi</i> – understands it	<i>Notitia</i> – I know what is claimed.	Mind – "Head" – I think anew.
Mark 4:20	<i>Paradechomai</i> – accepts it	<i>Assensus</i> – I agree it is true.	Affections – "Heart" – I love anew.
Luke 8:15	<i>Katecho</i> – keeps it	<i>Fiducia</i> – I trust and will with my will follow.	Will & practice – "Hands" – I live anew.

From James Sire's *Naming the Elephant*

"Pre-theoretical" - what we "know", concepts without which we can't begin to suppose or to think. Basic notions we just have and use without needing any faith or argument.

Substance, quantity, quality, time, place, relation, classification, causality, space, self, other, young, old, human, non-human, male, female, birth, death, meaning, identity, contradiction, agreement ...

"Intuitive" - the ideas, beliefs and values we derive from experience, information, and reason that then build or structure our worldview on the foundation of our presuppositions using pretheoretical tools.

"Presuppositional" - basic/core beliefs that are absolutely foundational to our intentional or unintentional construction or assembly of a worldview but at ultimately beyond proof.

"Cultural Worldviews" - web of beliefs that are so embedded in the minds and hearts of the bulk of society that people hold them either so unconsciously or firmly that they never think to ask if they are true.

Sire's big definition

"A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being."

Sire's big definition (*italics* = Russ Kraines' annotations)

"A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, (*I do think the "posture" of the heart is so often the root of acceptance/resistance to a gospel centered worldview - especially in the postmodern/distrust of big, totalizing thought schemes we currently inhabit*) that can be expressed as a story (*what "story" does one see oneself a part of?*) or in a set of presuppositions (*all worldviews are grounded ultimately on a set of presuppositions*) (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently (*inconsistently quite often in the West these days*)) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being." (*How is it that one actually thinks, feels and lives?*)

WVs thinkers - Abel, Moses, David, Solomon, Job, Jesus, Paul

Does your Worldview pass the test?

Is it well articulated?

Does it hang together?

Can you fluently explain it?

Is it countercultural?

It really ought to be.

Does it reflect reality?

Does biblical truth and insight "explain" what you are seeing?

Is it comprehensive?

Are there areas where your faith does not seem relevant?