



Digging Deeper Session 1

Tackling Difficult Questions From A Christian Worldview





What Are We Doing Here?

- A teaching and discussion forum for questions related to the intersection of faith with science, philosophy, history, and culture
- Topics are sermon driven; meant to serve as supplements
- We will at times cover *what* to think, but our focus is on how to think like a historic Christian
- **Please bring your questions**



Ground Rules

- Not a “safe” space, but a “good, true, and beautiful” space (Historic Christian Transcendentals)
 - Good: All people and ideas are treated with respect—treating others and their ideas as you want to be treated
 - True: Not all ideas are equally valid—ideas will be tested for coherence and correspondence
 - Beautiful: We want to build community through thoughtful engagement—at the end of the day this should be a positive and life-giving experience
- All topics will be addressed from a Christian Worldview



Housekeeping

- We will start and end on time
- After hours follow up questions enghelp1906@gmail.com
- Session 6 logistics



Examining Christian Worldview

Laying The Groundwork For Discussion



What is a Worldview

- A worldview forms a mental structure that organizes one's basic or ultimate beliefs
- The “glasses” through which we see reality
- Ephesians 4:17-24; note “attitude of the mind”





Why Start Here?

- First, we have to know what we are defending
- Second, almost all of the meaningful conflicts in ideas you will face (inter-denominational excluded) will be worldview conflicts
- How do we explain people taking in the same data, but coming to radically different conclusions?
 - Is abortion murder or healthcare?
 - Is the design in nature real or only apparent (intelligent design/Darwinism)?
 - Is homosexual practice an expression of love or a misdirected desire?
 - Is the resurrection the most well attested historical event from antiquity or the delusions of religious believers?
- Jesus dealt in Worldview Conflicts



A Worldview Conflict

- Matthew 4:1-11
 - First some expository notes before we make application
 - Parallels with Israel
 - God needed not only to draw Israel out of Egypt but also to drive Egypt out of Israel.
 - Israel needed a worldview change.
 - Jesus' temptation is a confrontation of worldview and ideas in addition to its theological content
 - Satan vs. Jesus—diametrically opposed worldviews
 - Both approach the same situation, that is the same data and information, yet interpret through completely and diametrically opposed lenses



Digging Deep into Worldview

1

Theology--some concept of God or his non-existence

3

Epistemology--Theory of knowledge

5

Humanity--What is human nature and how can we study it

2

Metaphysics--what is reality? What does it mean to exist particularly on a cosmological level

4

Axiology--Study of Values; Morals, ethics, what is the good

6

History--How can we understand unfolding historical events including the future. Are we heading somewhere or nowhere?



Answering the Big Questions

- Who/What am I?
- How did I get here?
- Why are things so messed up?
- Is there any way in which they can or will get better?





Christian Worldview

The Story of Everything in Four Chapters

- **Creation**
- **Fall**
- **Redemption**
- **Restoration**



Creation

- Genesis 1-2
 - Context: An apologetic against the Ancient Near East creation myths.
 - Gen 1:1 creating everything from nothing
 - Gen 1:2 formless and void--the earth was useless
 - Gen 1:3-24 God is separate from his creation but exercising authority and control over it while not requiring it for anything.
 - Gen 1:26-31 *imago dei*--we are imbued with God's image not as a characteristic but as a **state of being**.
 - Gen 2 telescopes on day 6



What are the Implications of God as Creator?

- **Authority**
 - Established by creation
 - All authority is subsidiary to God's
- **Teleology** (which is the idea of purpose, meaning, design, or goal)
 - All things have a right purpose
 - Ideas like freedom, moral goodness, and rights make no sense without discussions of purpose or design.
- **Ontology** (which is the idea of what exists or a state of being.)
 - The world is real, it exists external to us and God and contains absolutes
 - The *Imago Dei*--image of God
 - The imago Dei is a state of being that conveys de facto dignity and bifurcates creation into human things and nonhuman things.



Fall

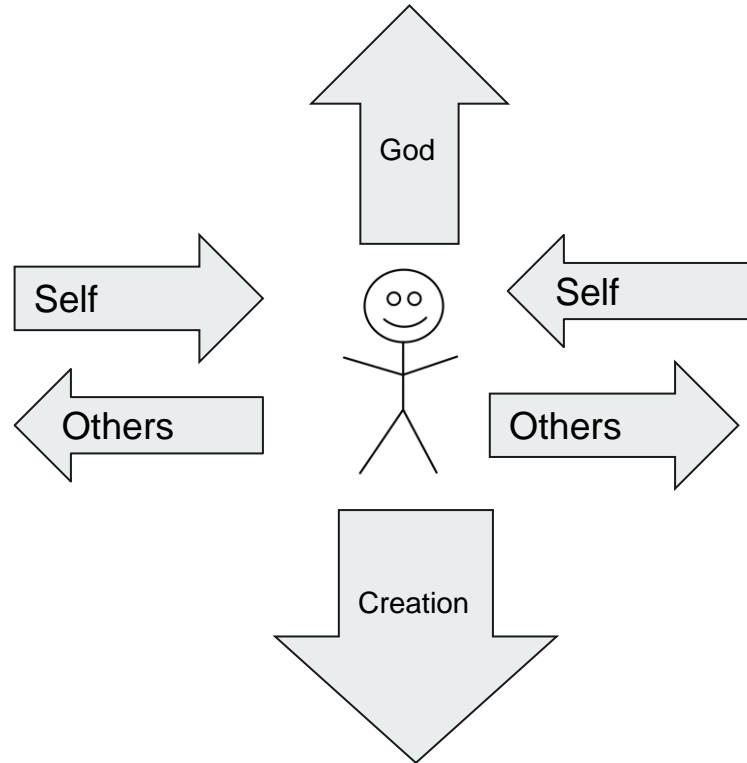
- Gen 3
 - Gen 3:1-7 Sin enters the world through disobedience.
 - Sin is essentially any deviation from God's ways since he has the authority to establish teleology and ontology.
 - Gen 3:16-19 sin is pervasive and affects:
 - Interpersonal relationships
 - The creation itself (although we can debate exactly how)
 - Work and the pursuits of man
 - Death.
- Sin is the answer for what is wrong with the world.
 - Notice how the Bible offers an early answer to how we got into this situation



What are the Implications of the Fall?

- Man is an essentially depraved moral creature and we live in a moral universe.
 - There are real right and wrong things independent of perspective. There is real guilt and moral accountability.
- Sin is not a **pathology**.
 - Man does not need more education, freedom, money, counseling, etc to behave rightly (although these do help), but can only behave rightly by God's grace.
- Sin has affected all of creation
 - moral evil, natural evil, noetic effects on man, institutional evil, death, decay etc.
- Christians can give a big answer to why things are *not the way they are supposed to be*.

Summarizing the Effects of the Fall



Redemption

- The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- All Things are within the scope of Jesus' redemption
 - Ephesians 1:1-11
 - 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
- Individual salvation is the starting point, but not the only focus





Searching for Salvation

- The world looks to all sorts of things for redemption or to be saved
 - Freudian Redemption=Sexual revolution: example LGBTQ and abortion “rights” activism
 - Marxist Redemption=Politics: example Critical Theory or Christian Nationalism
 - Darwinian Redemption=Scientism/Naturalism: Transhumanism and constant technological progress
- Only Christianity can offer real redemption because it is the only worldview that correctly diagnoses the problem.



How Now Shall We Live

Cultural Commission Genesis 1: 26,28	The Great Commission Matthew 28: 18,19
Man is a “new” creation in God’s image	Disciples are a “new creation” through baptism
Man is given authority by the creator	Christ has all authority and delegates to his followers
Man rules and takes dominion by subduing creation	Disciples teach all to obey Christ
Man multiplies to fill the earth	Disciples make more disciples

Jesus’ death and resurrection allows us to fulfill the cultural mandate of Genesis



Restoring All Things

- Subsidiarity or Sphere Sovereignty (depending on your theological tradition) Eph. 1:20-23, Psalm 8
 - In each sphere of life there is a delegated authority from God and an essential teleology and ontology (a normative structure around which we can find true purpose) which has been corrupted or confused by the fall, but Christ through his redemptive work has empowered us to restore it.





Making Application

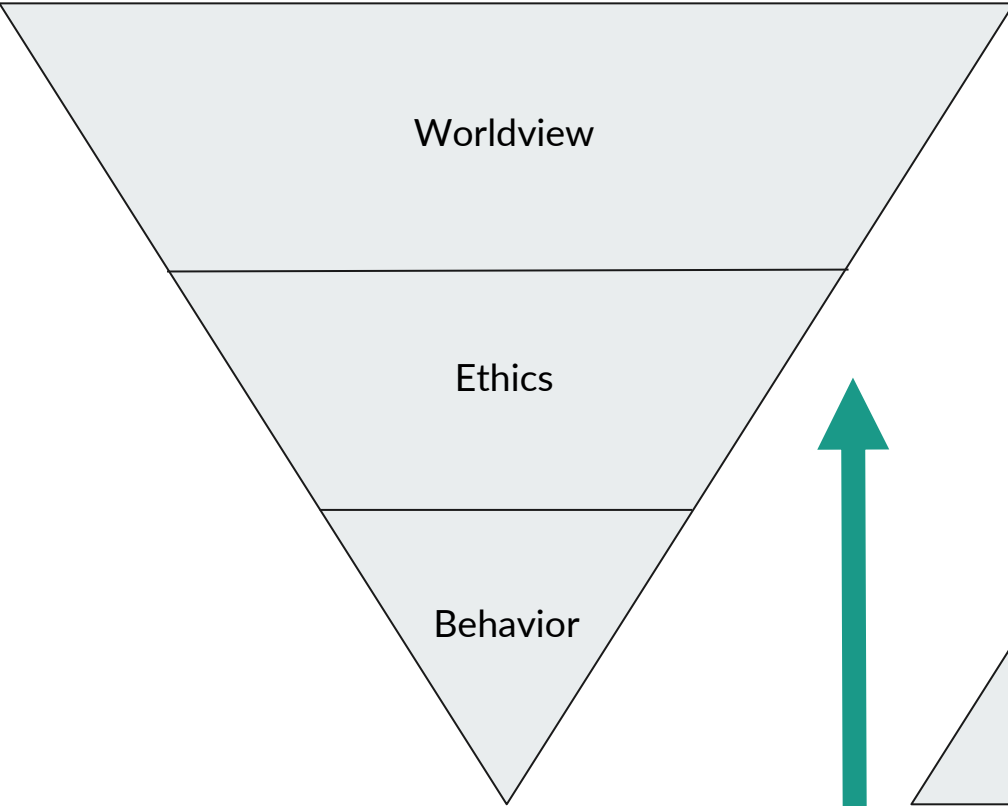




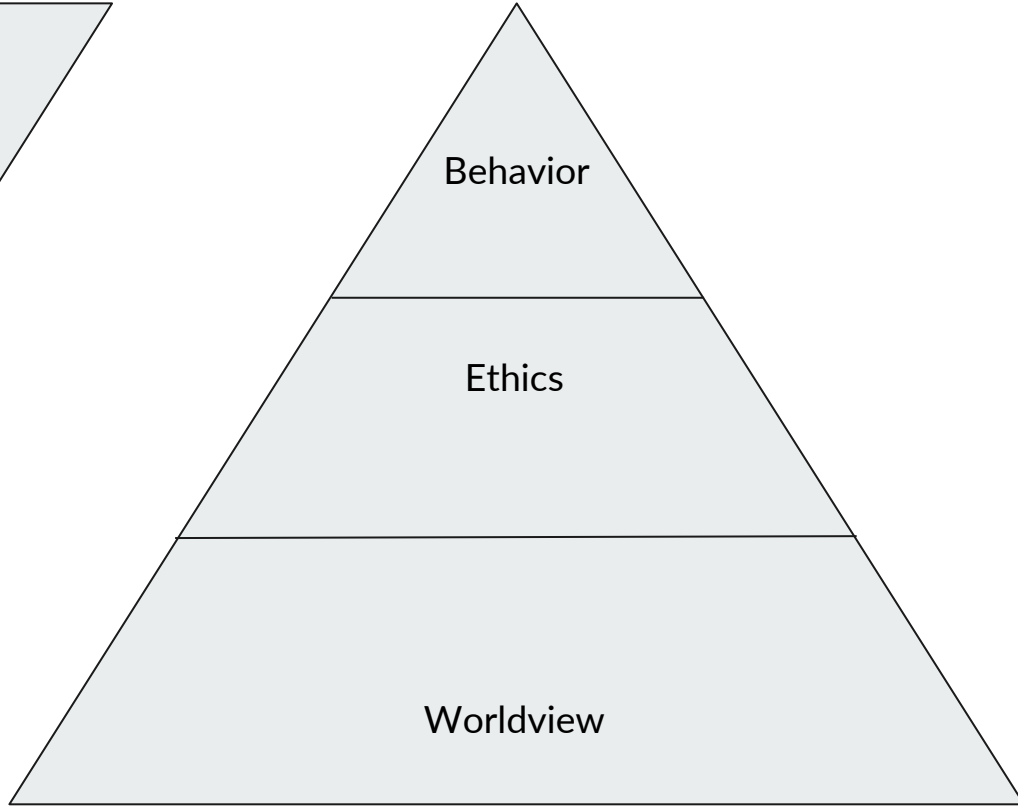
What Does God's Kingdom Look Like (Sphere Sovereignty)

- A practical Strategy
 - What is the purpose (teleology) of XXX and what is XXX supposed to exist as (ontology)?
 - Family
 - Church
 - Business/Commerce
 - Art
 - Education
 - Politics/Law/Government
- We as Christians have the authority and mandate to restore brokenness, but we cannot do that without a sound mind and a Biblical worldview

Secular



Christian





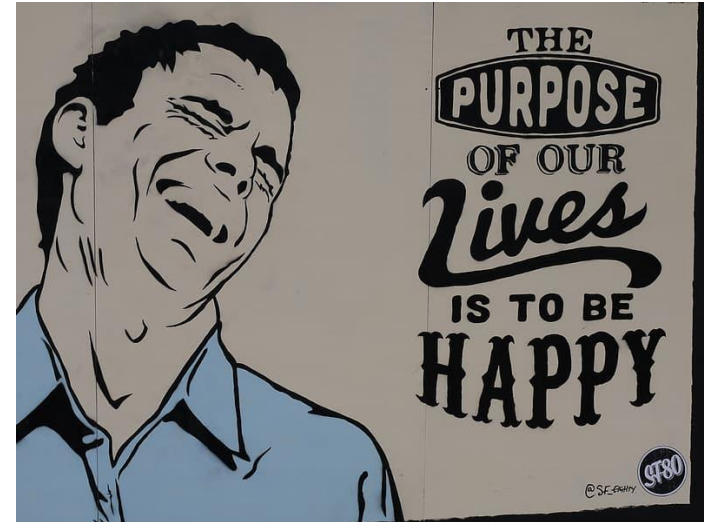
Faithfulness

~~Success~~



Purpose Refocused In Light of the Four Chapters

- What's good that we can celebrate?(Creation)
- What's evil that we can stop?(Fall)
- What's broken that we can redeem/reconcile?(Redemption)
- What's missing that we can contribute?(Restoration)





Big Takeaways and Q&A





Template Slides

