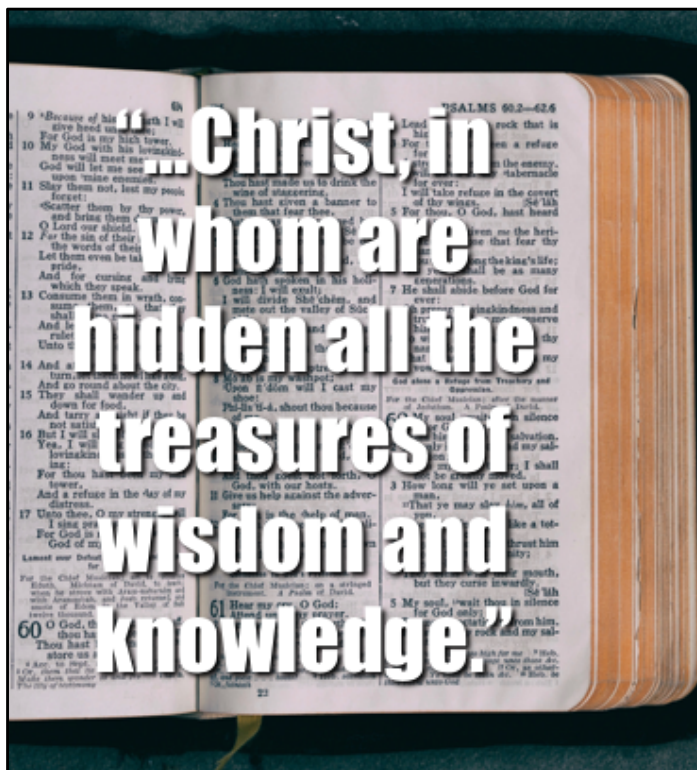


WORLDVIEW

www.maventruth.com



@BrettKunkle



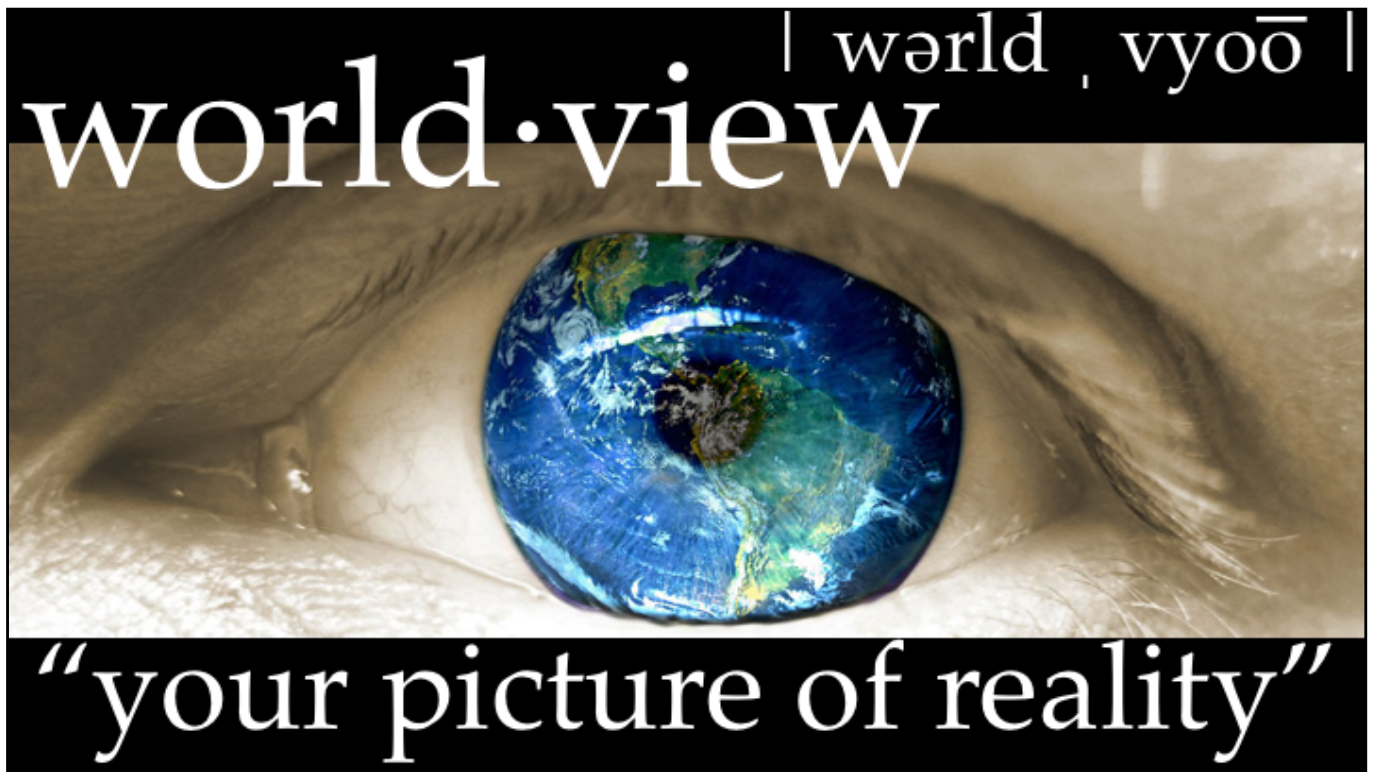
"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Colossians 2:2-3

QUESTION: As a Christian, do you really believe this? Do you believe that in Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?"



We can't answer that question unless we understand the concept of worldview.



What is a worldview? You picture (view) of reality.

According to philosopher Ken Samples, a worldview “forms a mental structure that organizes one's basic or ultimate beliefs. This framework supplies a comprehensive view of what a person considers real, true, rational, good, valuable, and beautiful.” See <http://www.reasons.org/articles/what-in-the-world-is-a-worldview>.







EXPLANATION

I demand one

Trying to make sense of the world is unique to human creatures because we are the only RATIONAL creature.

- Your dog is not pondering the nature of his existence, what it means to be a dog, the purpose of his life, etc.
- Animals are not rational creatures. This is unique to being human.



ORIGIN

where did everything come from?

IDENTITY

who am I? what am I?

MEANING

why am I here?

MORALITY

how should I live my life?

DESTINY

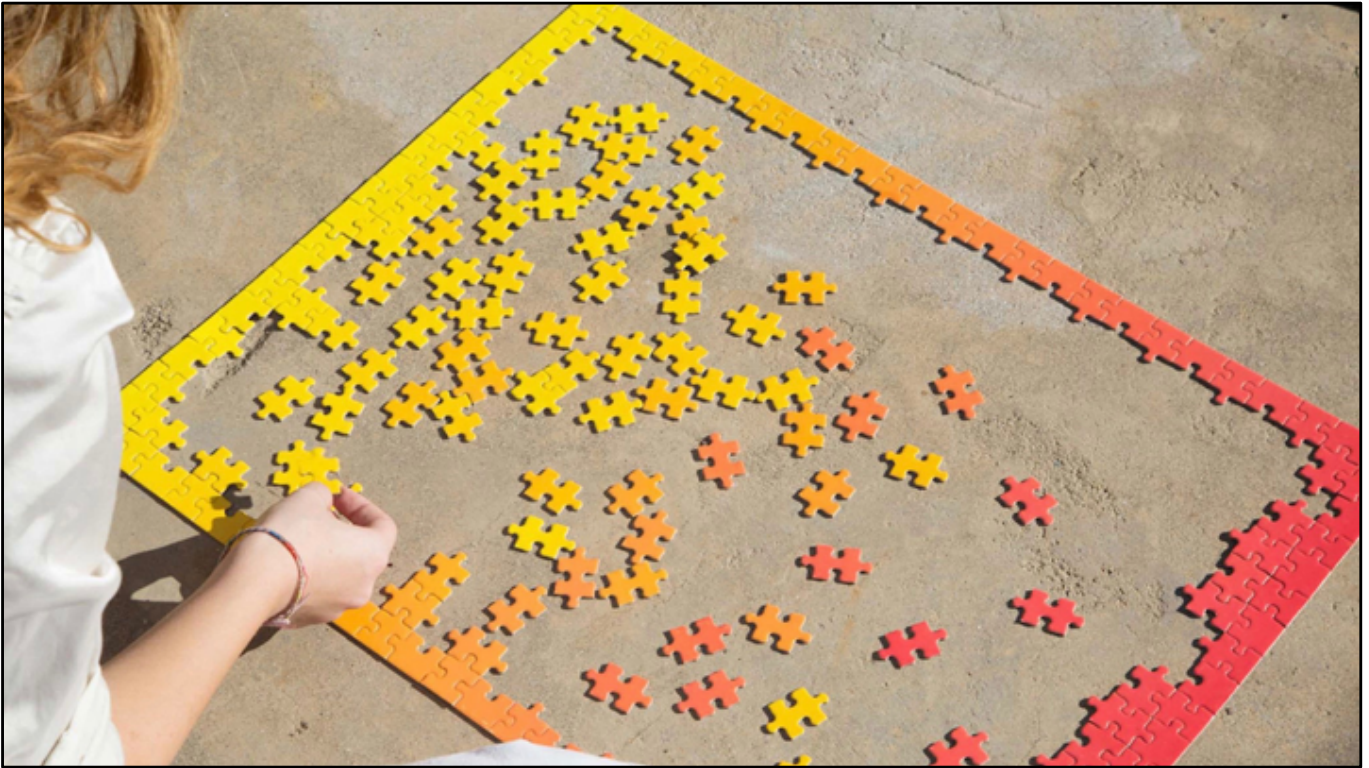
what happens when I die?

THE 5 BIG WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS:

- ORIGIN: Where did everything come from?
- IDENTITY: What does it mean to be human?
- MEANING: What is the purpose of everything?
- MORALITY: How should we live?
- DESTINY: Where are we going?

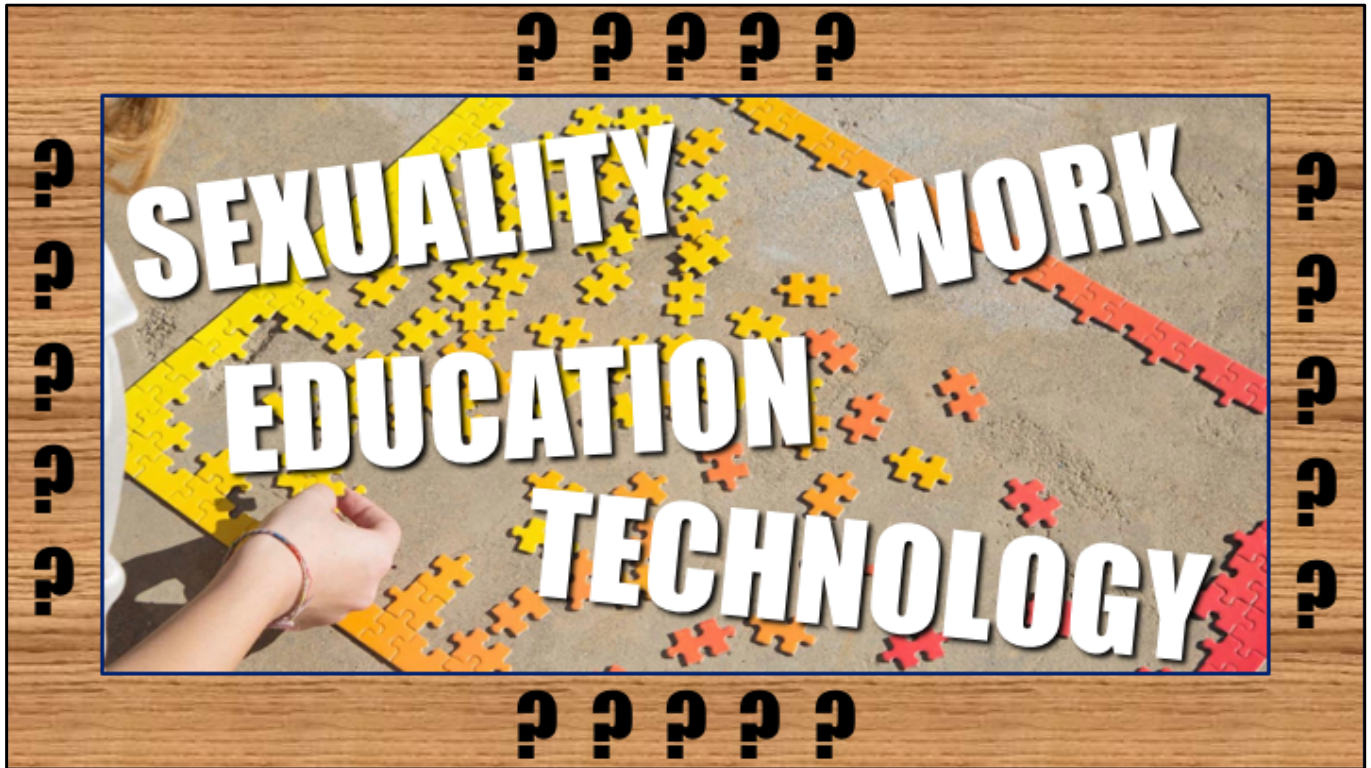
See page 54 of *A Student's Guide to Culture*

See page 91 of *A Practical Guide to Culture*



Where do you start when putting together a puzzle? The edges.

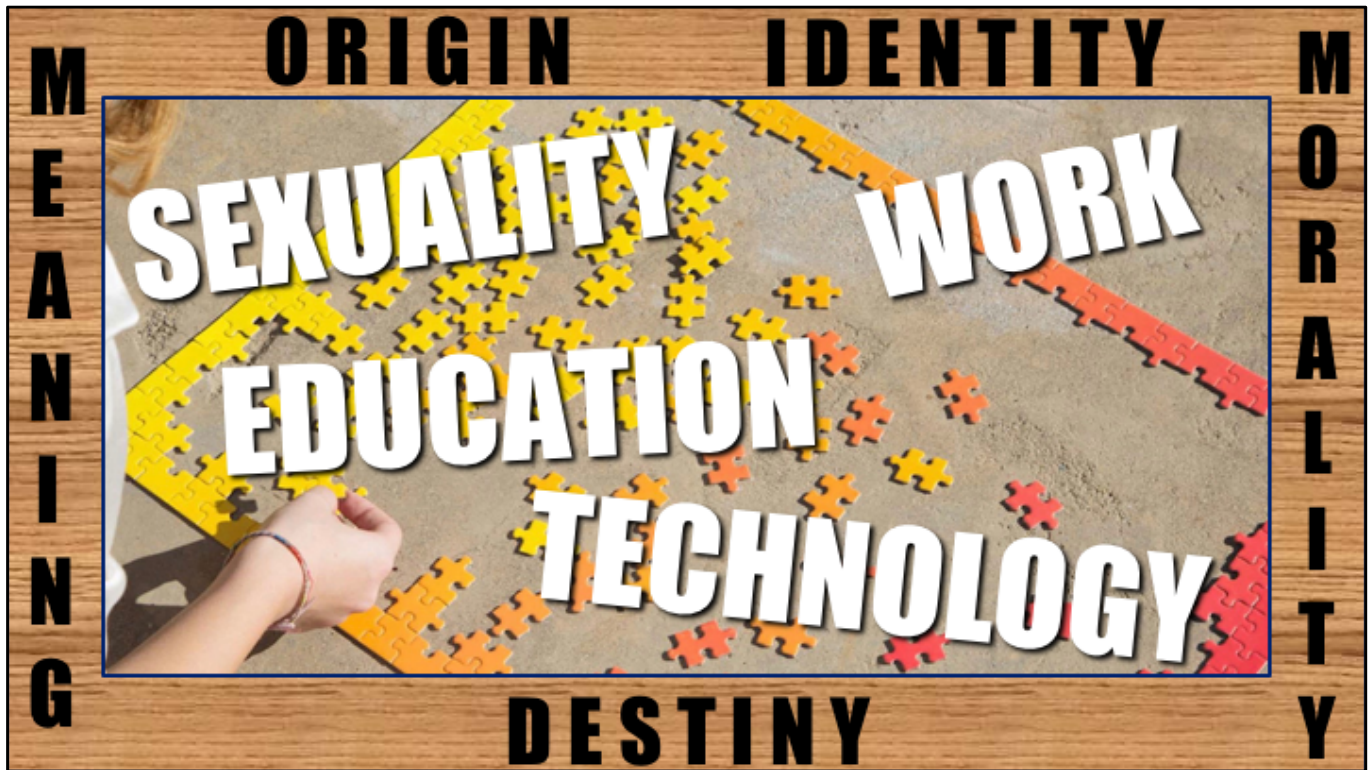
Why? Because the edges frame the picture. They help you to make sense of how the other pieces fit.



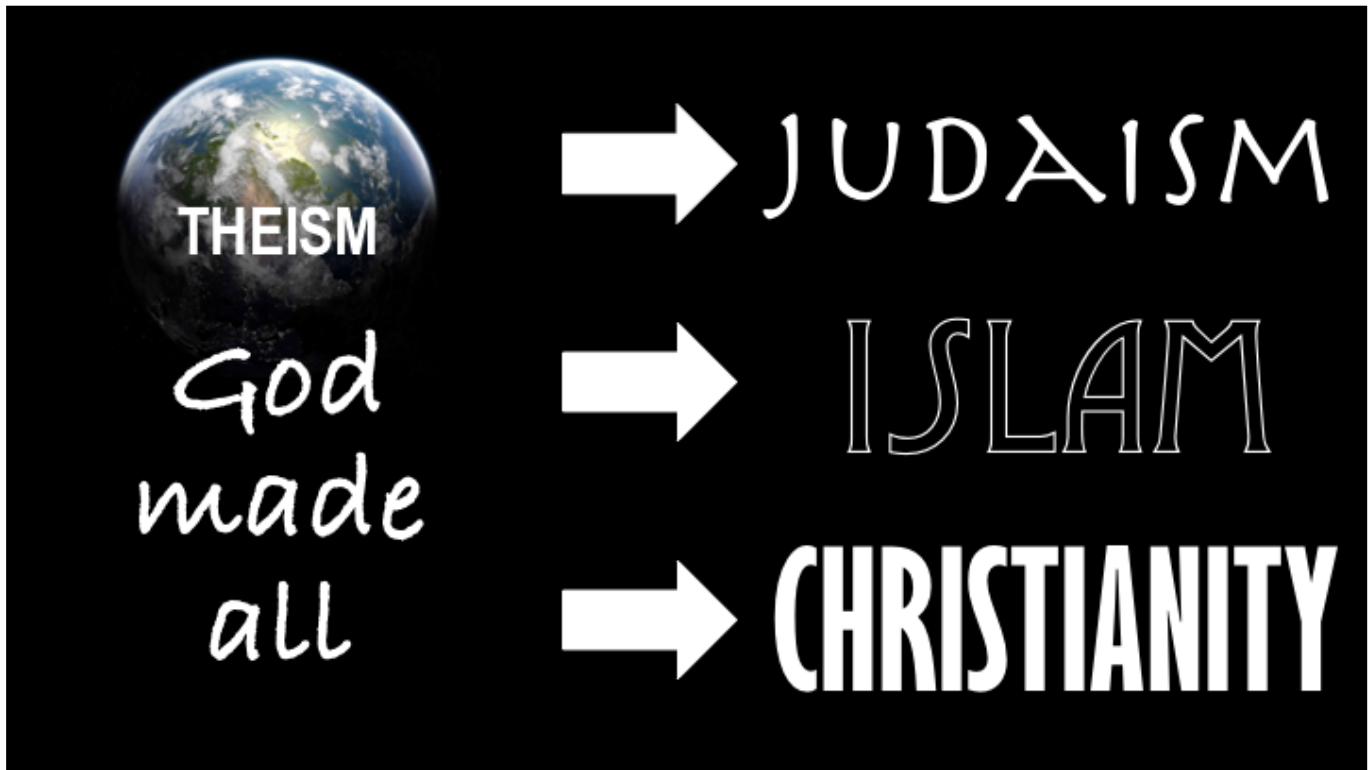
So what's the frame (edge pieces) that help us to make the most sense of all the "stuff" of life? Our answers to the big worldview questions.

Without the frame, it's very difficult (or nearly impossible) to make sense of the individual "pieces" of life, like:

- sexuality
- education
- work
- technology



So what's the frame (edge pieces) that help us to make the most sense of all the "stuff" of life? Our answers to the big worldview questions.



Here is a simple categorization of the main worldview options:

THEISM: Judaism, Christianity, Islam



Here is a simple categorization of the main worldview options:

THEISM: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

PANTHEISM: Zen Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age

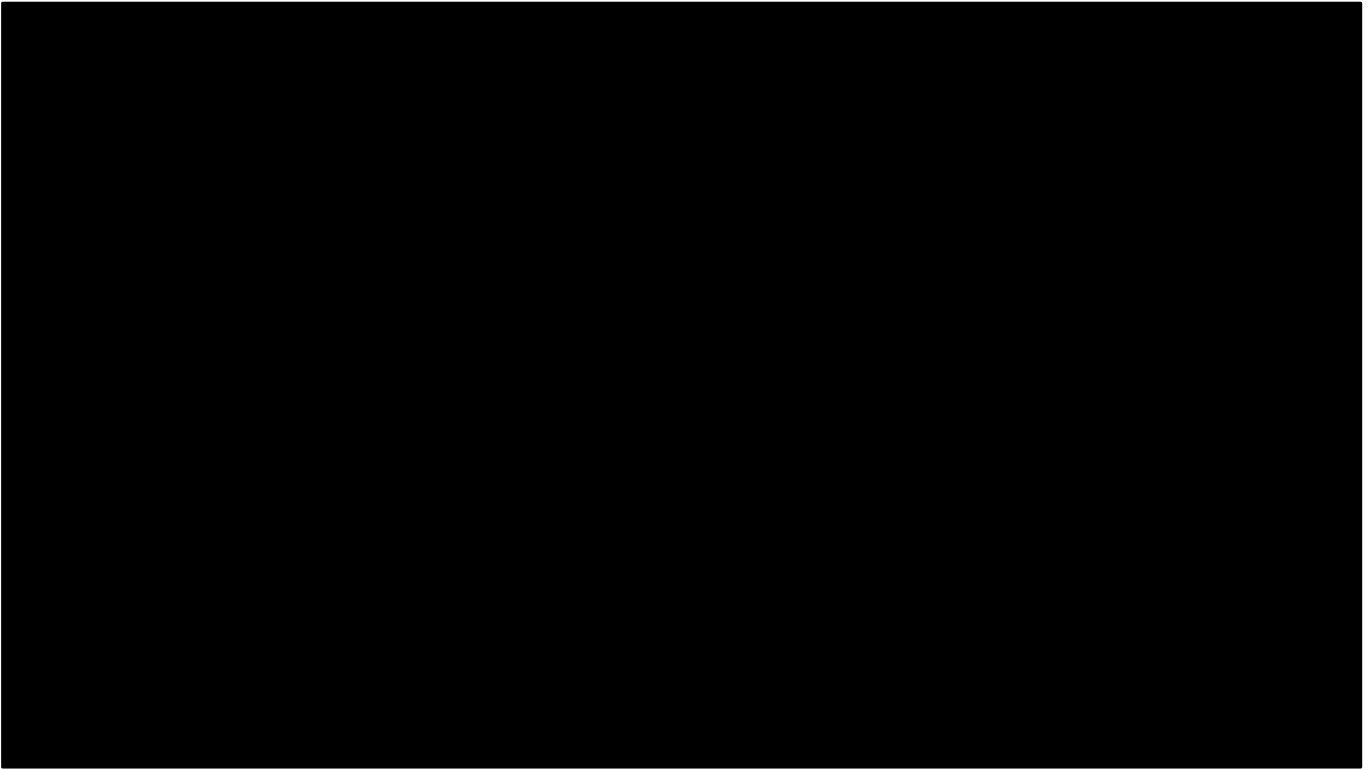
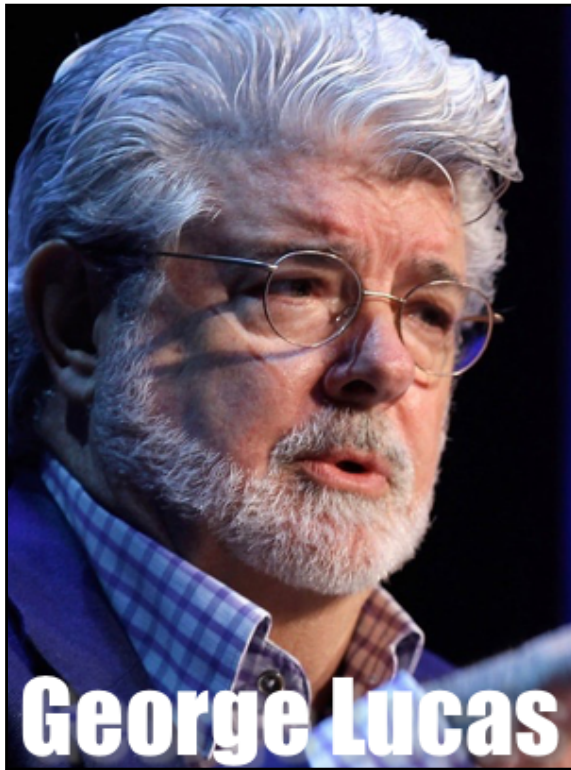


Illustration: Star Wars video clip of Jedi Masters Obi Wan Kenobi and Yoda talking about the Force



“[Star Wars is] designed primarily to make young people think about the mystery. Not to say, ‘Here's the answer.’ It’s to say, ‘Think about this for a second. Is there a God? What does God look like? What does God sound like? What does God feel like? How do we relate to God?’”

Our worldviews trickle down into the culture, pop culture, and every aspect of our lives.

Source: "Of Myth and Men: A Conversation between Bill Moyers and George Lucas on the meaning of the Force and the true theology of Star Wars," Time (April 26, 1999), p. 93.



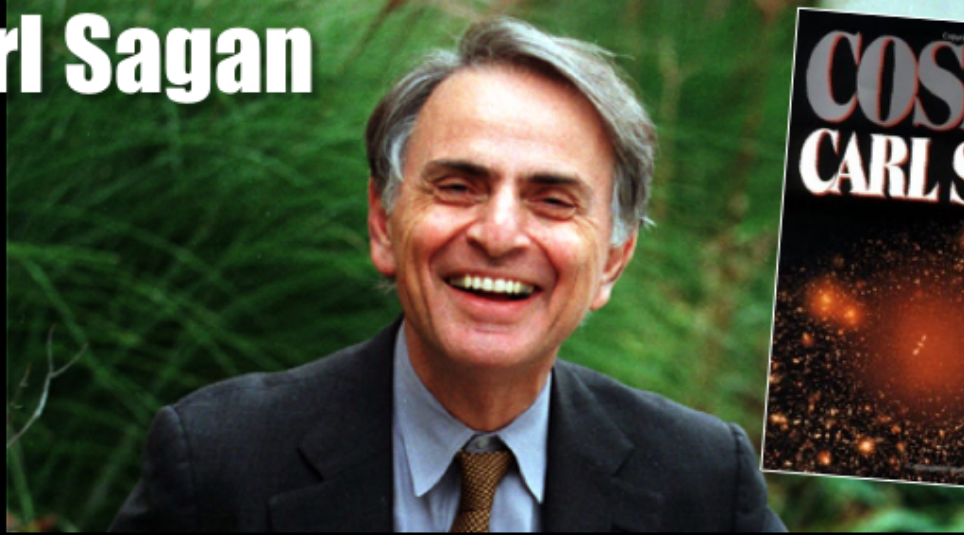
Here is a simple categorization of the main worldview options:

THEISM: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

PANTHEISM: Zen Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age

ATHEISM: Secularism, Humanism

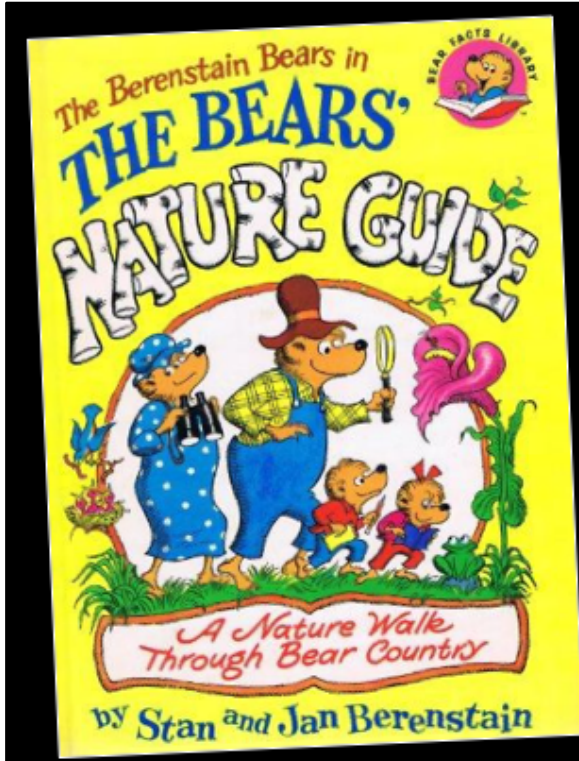
Carl Sagan



“The Cosmos is all that is,
or ever was, or ever will be.”

Carl Sagan: prominent astronomer, astrophysicist, cosmologist, author (of more than 20 books) and science popularizer

Cosmos: 1980 13-part television series, it covers a wide range of scientific subjects including the origin of the universe



"Nature is every person, thing, and place here on Earth and out in space."

"Nature's the sun, the moon, the stars. It's faraway planets like Venus and Mars."

"It's the mountains, the valleys, the shore, the sea."

"Nature is you!"

"Nature is me!"

Worldviews trickle down...

Illustration: The Berenstain Bears in *The Bears' Nature Guide*

It's all that IS
or WAS
or EVER WILL

It's all that IS
or WAS
or EVER WILL BE!

And that's a lot
to talk about
on just one nature
walkabout.





*TWO REASONS WHY A WORLDVIEW IS POWERFUL:

1-Creates a web of beliefs that form a plausibility structure – makes some ideas more believable or less believable

2-Drives your actions – we live at the mercy of our ideas



Let's illustrate how the ideas of a worldview have serious consequences for life...



For sake of time, let's remove pantheism and just compare/contrast theism and atheism.



First worldview question: ORIGIN

“...the most reasonable belief is that we came from nothing, by nothing, and for nothing.”

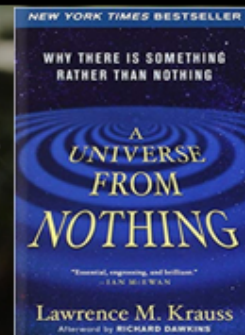
Quentin Smith

Professor emeritus of philosophy,
Western Michigan University



Lawrence Krauss

Theoretical Physicist &
Professor Arizona State University



“The amazing thing is that every atom in your body came from a star that exploded. And, the atoms in your left hand probably came from a different star than your right hand. It really is the most poetic thing I know about physics: You are all stardust. You couldn’t be here if stars hadn’t exploded, because the elements—the carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, iron, all the things that matter for evolution—weren’t created at the beginning of time. They were created in the nuclear furnaces of stars, and the only way they could get into your body is if those stars were kind enough to explode. So, forget Jesus. The stars died so that you could be here today.”

BOOK: *A Universe from Nothing—Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing*

“In the beginning God
created the heavens
and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1



"...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Romans 1:19-20

“GOD EXISTS.”

Cosmological

Design

Fine Tuning

Morality

A CLAIM ABOUT THE NATURE OF REALITY.



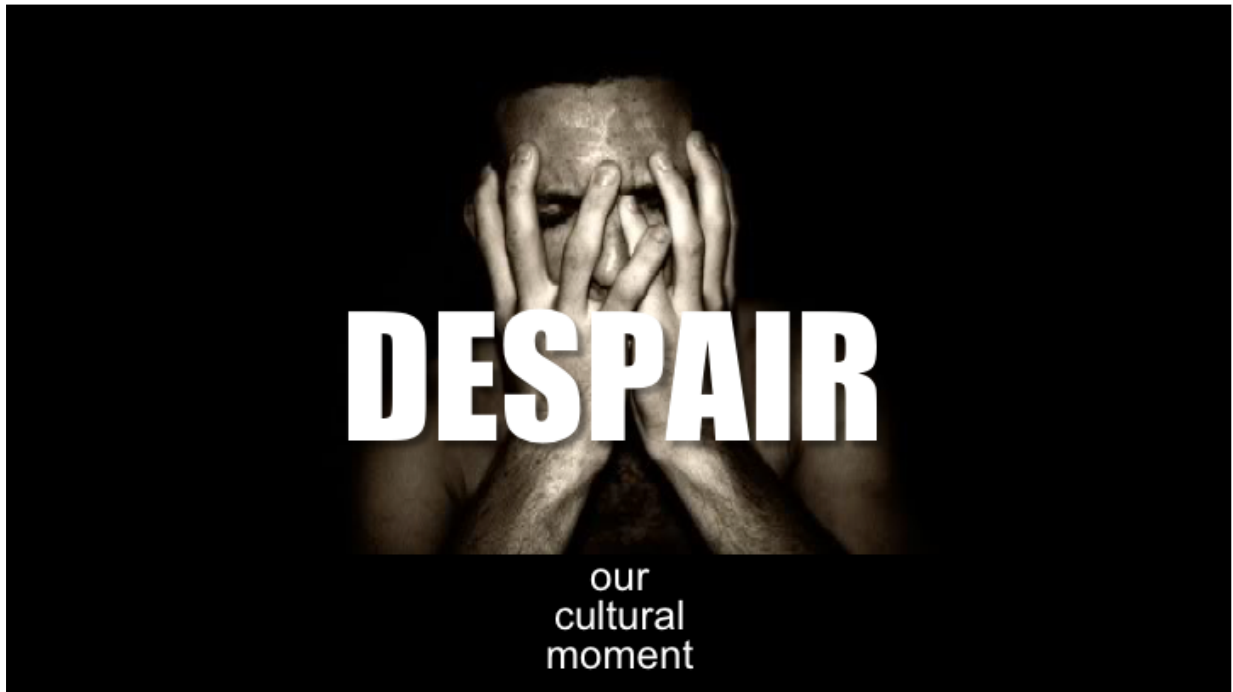
ATHEISM

The universe came into existence from no one, out of nothing, and for no reason.



THEISM

The universe was brought into existence by a personal, powerful Creator outside the natural realm, for a purpose.



Often, Christians look at our moment—all the challenges, all the bad stuff, all the evil—and we despair.

But despair is a horrible strategy!

Sadness and mourning are appropriate BUT despair is not, for those of us who follow Jesus.

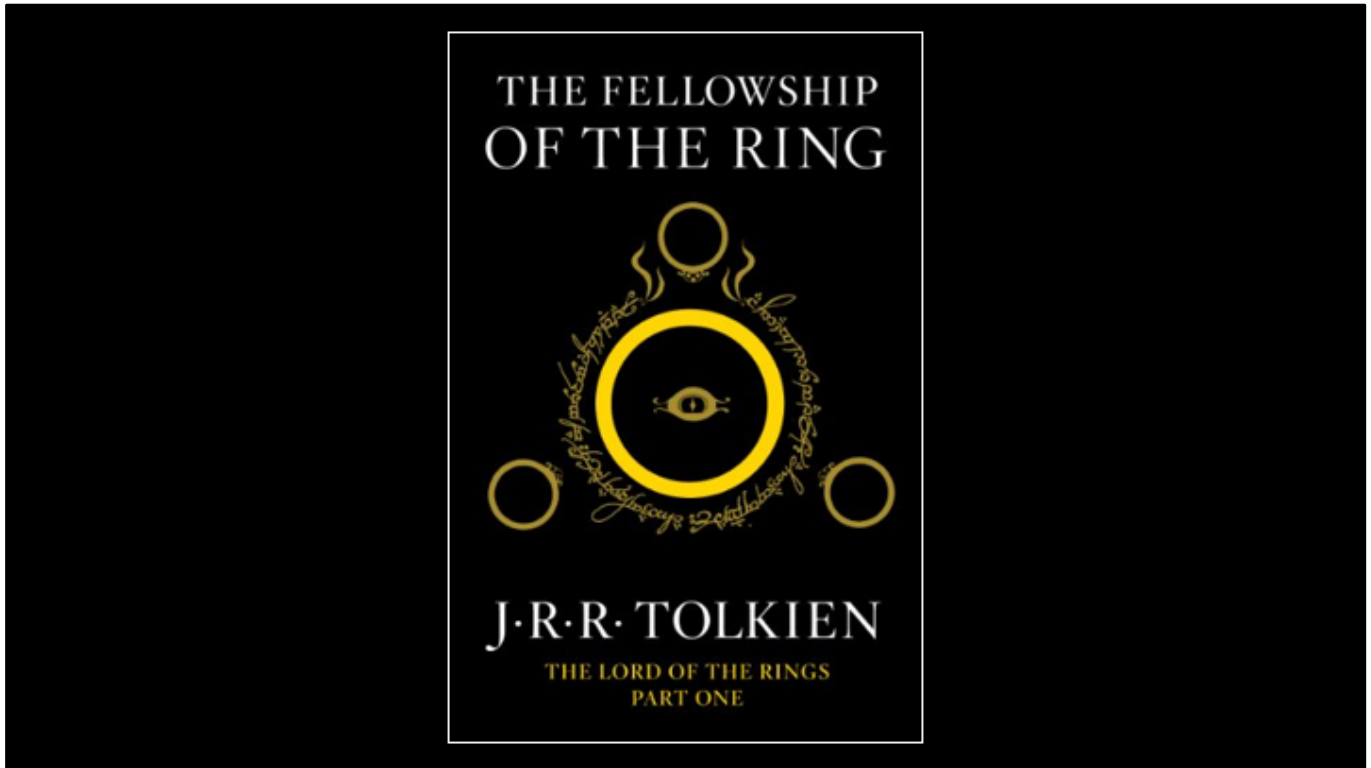


ILLUSTRATION: see pages 41-42 of *A Practical Guide to Culture—Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World*



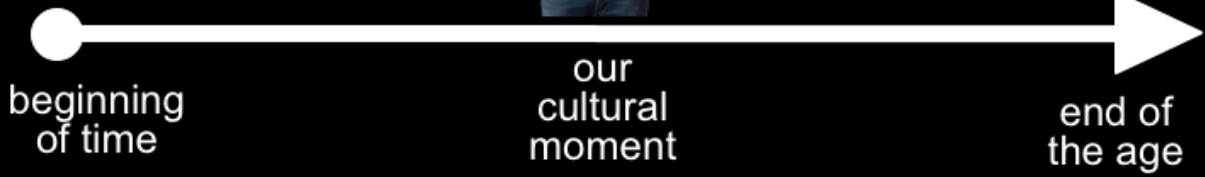
PAGES 41-42:

Imagine someone abandoning the Lord of the Rings trilogy because he was deeply misled that Gandalf fell off the bridge and died as he was fighting that demon-like creature near the end of the first book. "What kind of author kills off such a cool character as Gandalf?" he complains. "I quit! I want nothing to do with that kind of story!"

Any Tolkien groupie worth his salt would interject, "Wait! That's not the whole story. (Spoiler alert!) Gandalf doesn't die. He comes back. And he's no longer Gandalf the Grey; he's Gandalf the White. And in the end, he's part of the good that defeats evil."

Like our fictional Lord of the Rings reader, we're also at risk of losing the Story in the heat of the cultural moment, particularly when the world seems to be spinning out of control. Reeling from a tragedy or an election, trying to navigate a world where wrong is right and raunchy is popular, we often become reactionary and approach culture by asking the wrong question first.

A LARGER STORY

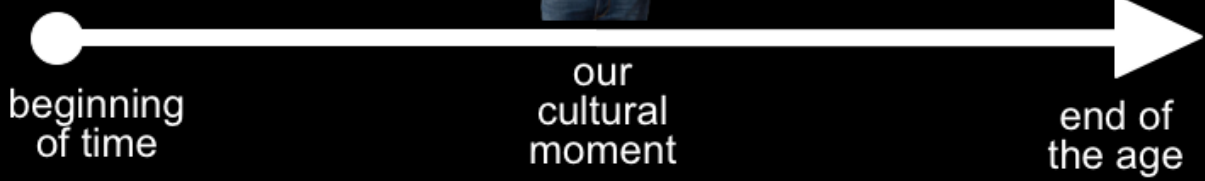


beginning
of time

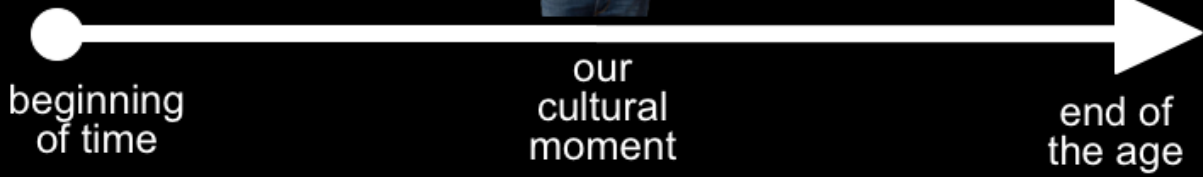
our
cultural
moment

end of
the age

A LARGER STORY



THE STORY OF REALITY



beginning
of time

our
cultural
moment

end of
the age



The Christian Story of Reality can be divided into four chapters:

- CREATION → the question of ORIGIN & IDENTITY
- THE FALL → the question of IDENTITY continued
- REDEMPTION → the questions of MEANING and MORALITY
- RESTORATION → the question of DESTINY

See page 33 of *A Student's Guide to Culture*

See page 51 of *A Practical Guide to Culture*

Start with
the story,
not the
moment.

HOLY
BIBLE



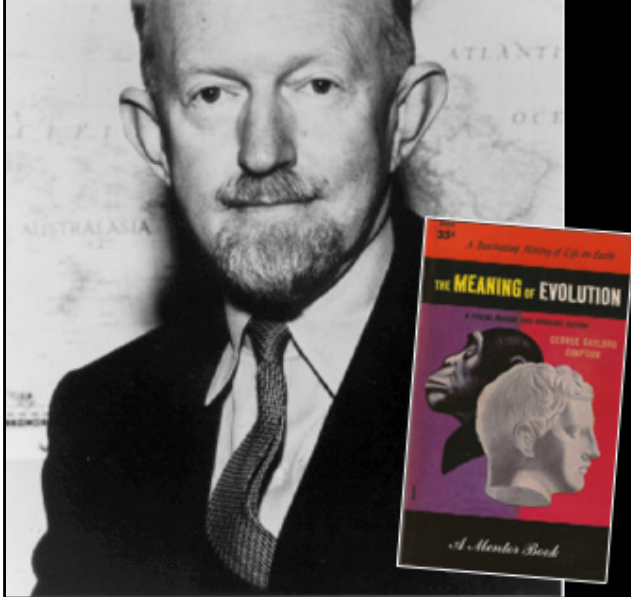
THEISM



ATHEISM

IDENTITY
who are we? what are we?

George Gaylord Simpson



“Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind.”

SOURCE: George Gaylord Simpson, in *The Meaning of Evolution*, revised edition (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967), p. 345.



ILLUSTRATION: Seeing this magazine cover in an airport bookstore



ILLUSTRATION: Bill Nye video clip—"I am just another speck..."

“Animal liberationists do not separate out the human animal, so there is no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They are all mammals.”

Ingrid Newkirk



PETA president and cofounder **Ingrid Newkirk** has led the world's largest animal rights organization for more than 25 years.

Source/Notes: Vogue Magazine (September 1, 1989)



MAY 2016 – Zookeepers shot and killed a rare gorilla named Harambe on Saturday after a 3-year-old boy slipped into its enclosure at the Cincinnati Zoo, triggering outcry over how the situation was handled.

THE HUFFINGTON POST



Bron Taylor

Professor of Religion &
Nature, University of Florida

“Some environmental philosophers and scientists, however, contend that an individual member of an endangered species is more valuable than an individual human being...the value of an individual decreases proportionately with the size of its population.”

The Value of a Gorilla vs. a Human

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bron-taylor/the-value-of-a-gorilla_b_10214928.html

According to Bron Taylor, how should we measure the value of human beings? The size of our population.

THE HUFFINGTON POST



Bron Taylor

Professor of Religion &
Nature, University of Florida

“Our reactions to the value of humans and other animals are typically shaped by culturally deep religious roots.”

THE HUFFINGTON POST



Bron Taylor

Professor of Religion &
Nature, University of Florida

“And perhaps, this case will help those who are skeptical of the religious ideas that undergird human supremacy to leave them behind, once and for all.

It may be that corresponding conservation policies and efforts would follow if such a value transformation spreads.”

THE HUFFINGTON POST



Bron Taylor

Professor of Religion &
Nature, University of Florida

“I hope that zoos will soon,
and universally, be on the
leading edge of this
transformation, rather than
reinforcing ancient and self-
serving human conceits.”

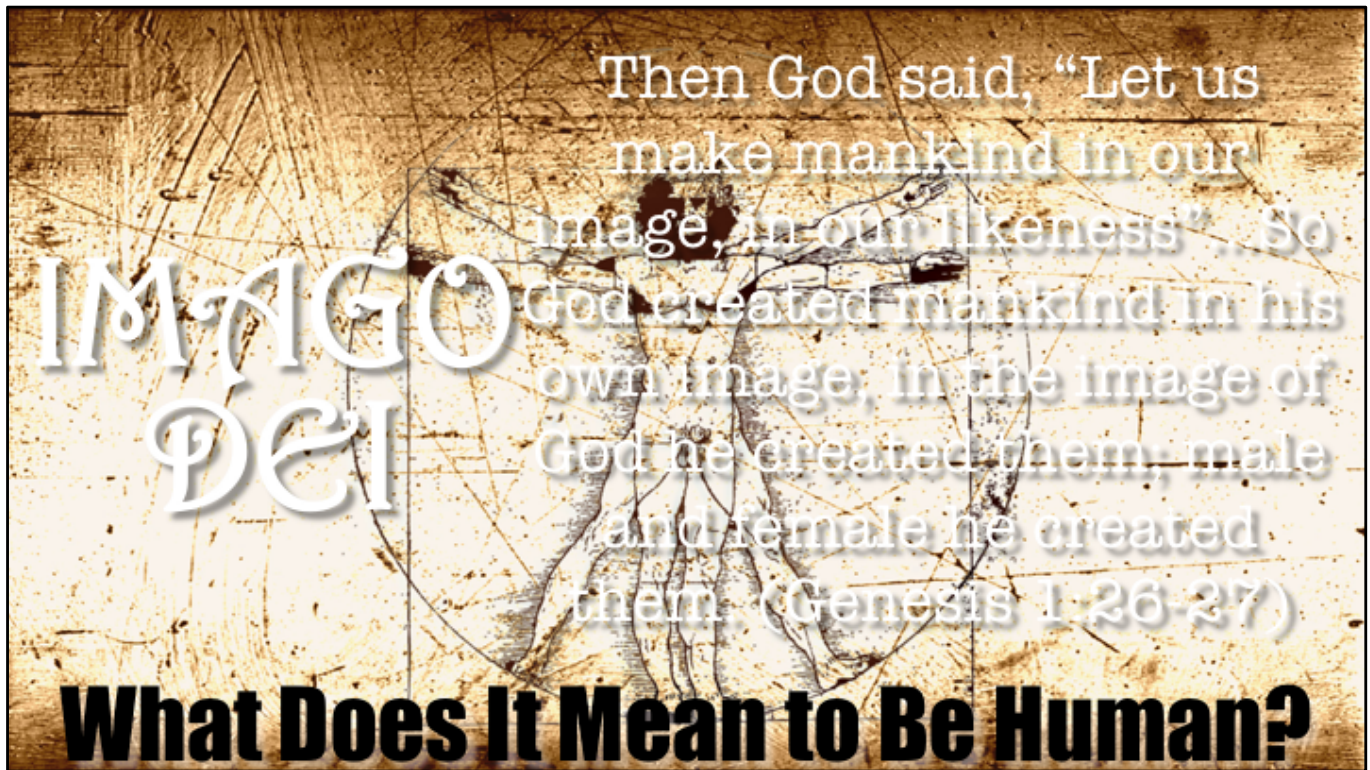


What makes people valuable? A worldview without God will point to some characteristic that we have...

- Beauty
- Smarts/Intelligence
- Wealth
- Physical Ability

KEY QUESTION: Which of those traits do human beings share EQUALLY?

ANSWER: None. And the implication? We are not equally valuable.



QUESTION: How does the Christian worldview answer the IDENTITY question? What does it mean to be human?

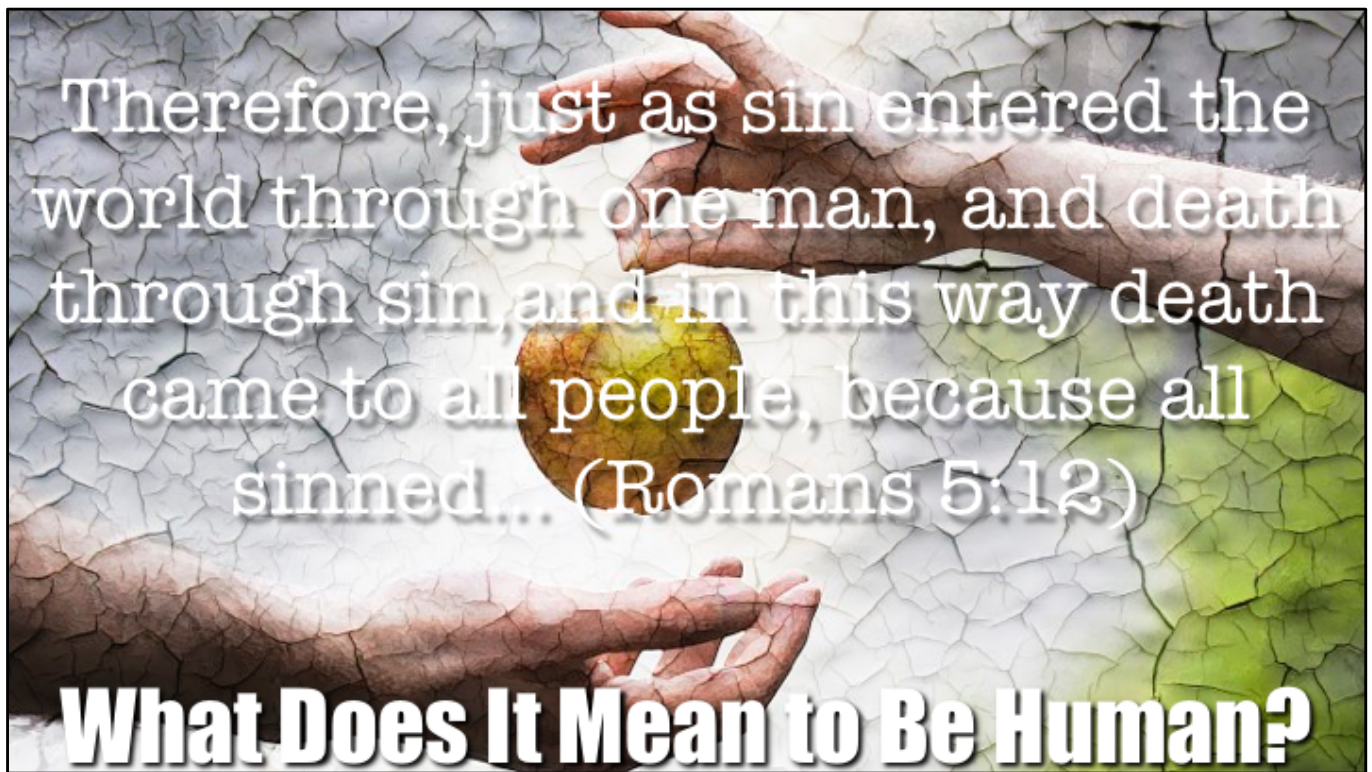
ANSWER: We are made in God's image.

*The image of God in man is the only thing we share equally. Therefore, it's the only thing that can ground human EQUALITY.



Only the Christian worldview provides a basis for true human equality:

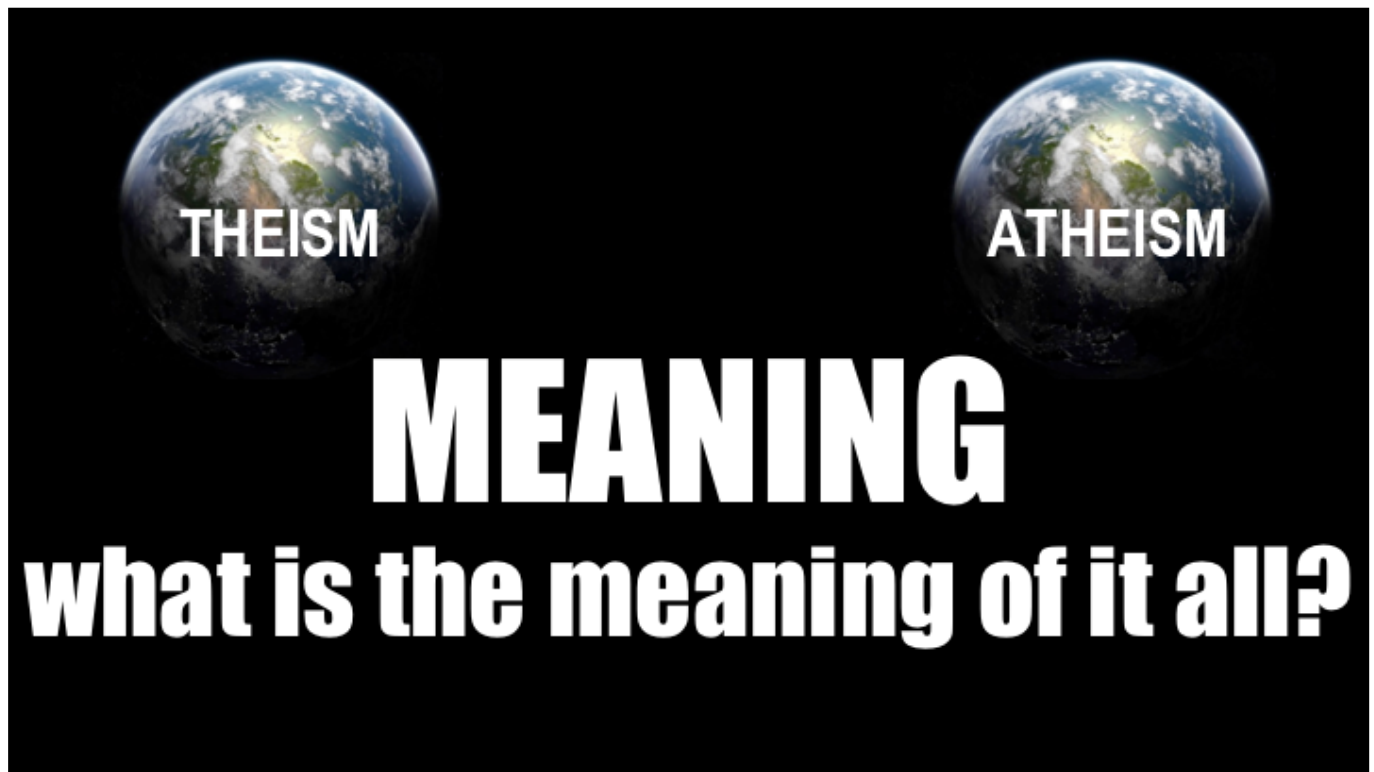
- 1-We are equal in value
- 2-We are equal in dignity
- 3-We have equal rights



The second part of the answer comes in Genesis 3: We are also fallen, sinful creatures.



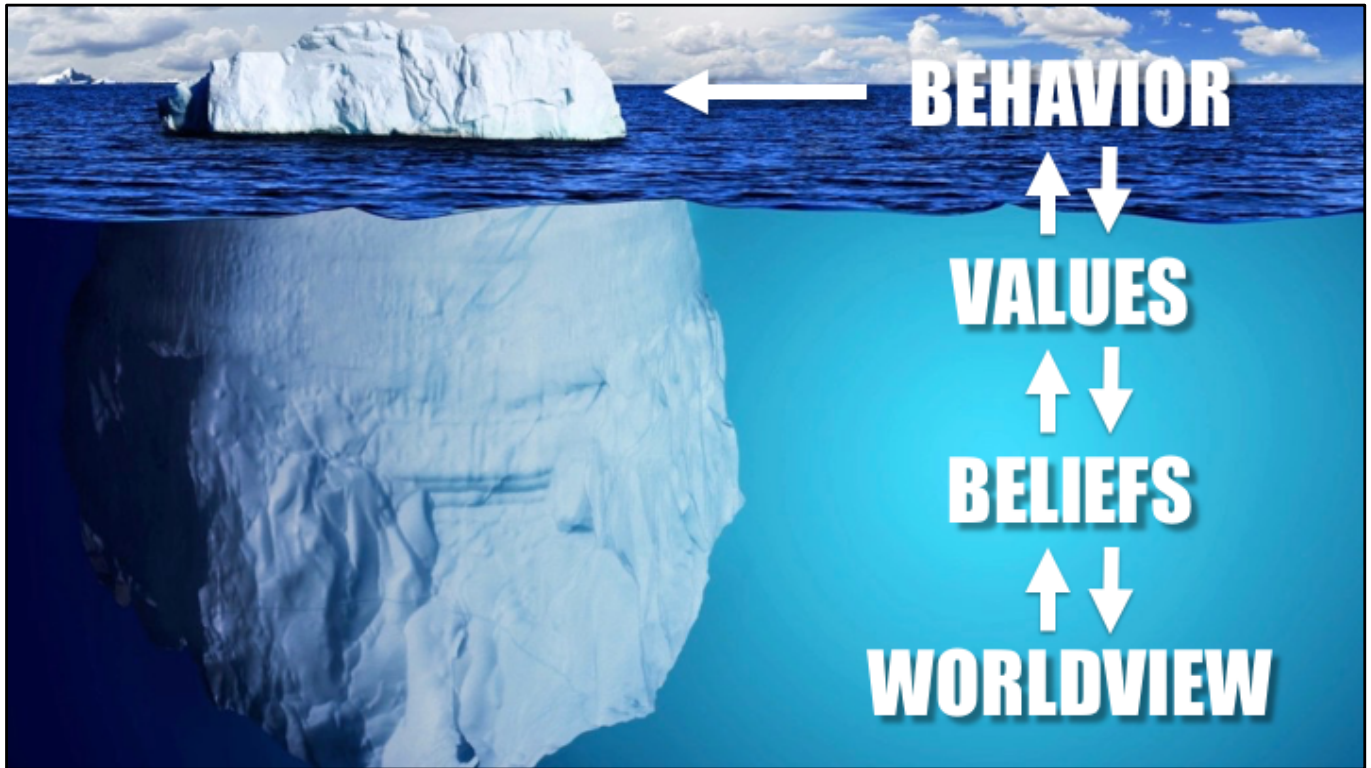
We could do the same comparison with the question of MORALITY



We could do the same comparison with the question of MEANING

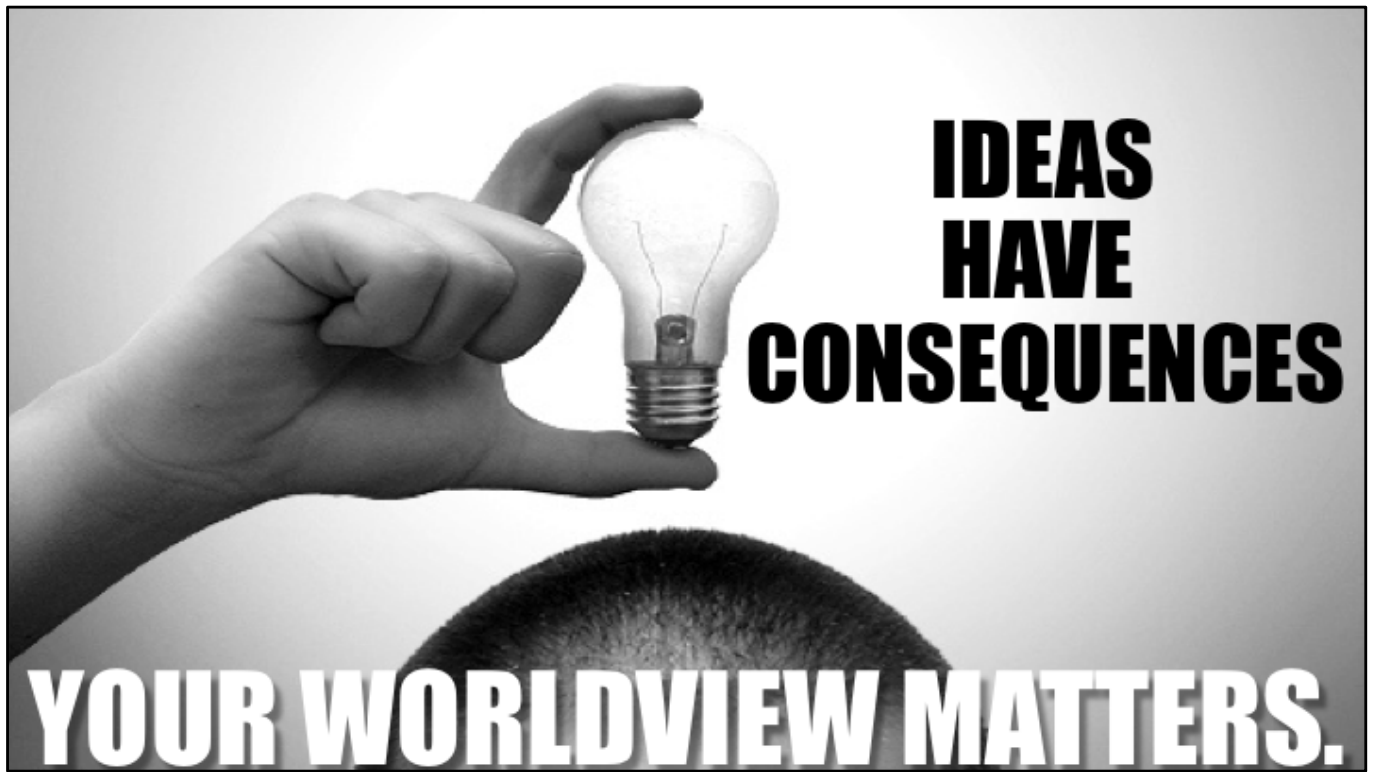


We could do the same comparison with the question of DESTINY



How can we know someone's worldview? By observing their behavior.

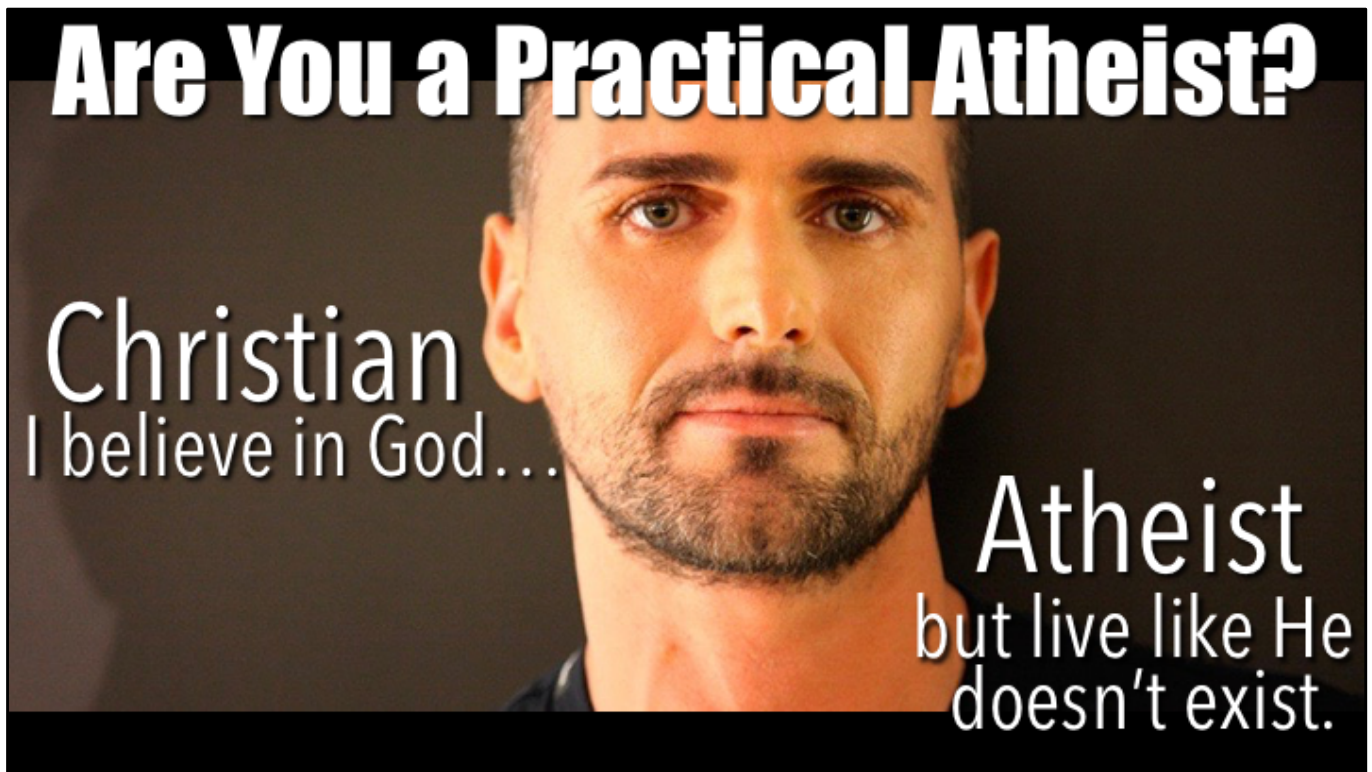
What drives much of our behavior? Worldview.



“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Romans 12:2





For most Western Christians, God is "...mostly situated in the background of everyday living..."

Many of us are "Practical Atheists." We believe in God but live like He doesn't exist.

Does Christianity inform your view of...



Does Christianity inform your view of...



EDUCATION

Does Christianity inform your view of...



LAW

Does Christianity inform your view of...



Does Christianity inform your view of...



HISTORY

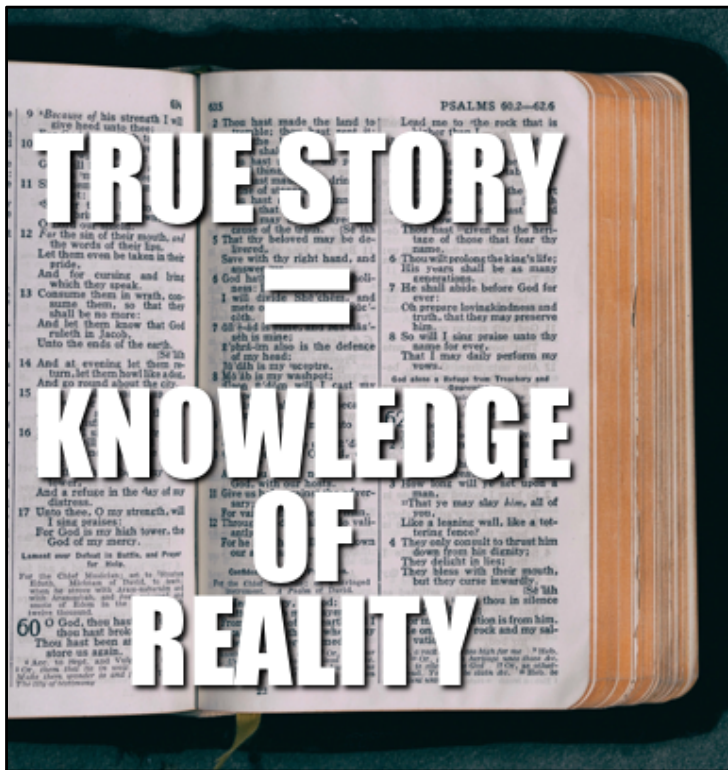
Does Christianity inform your view of...



PSYCHOLOGY

Does Christianity inform your view of...

TECHNOLOGY

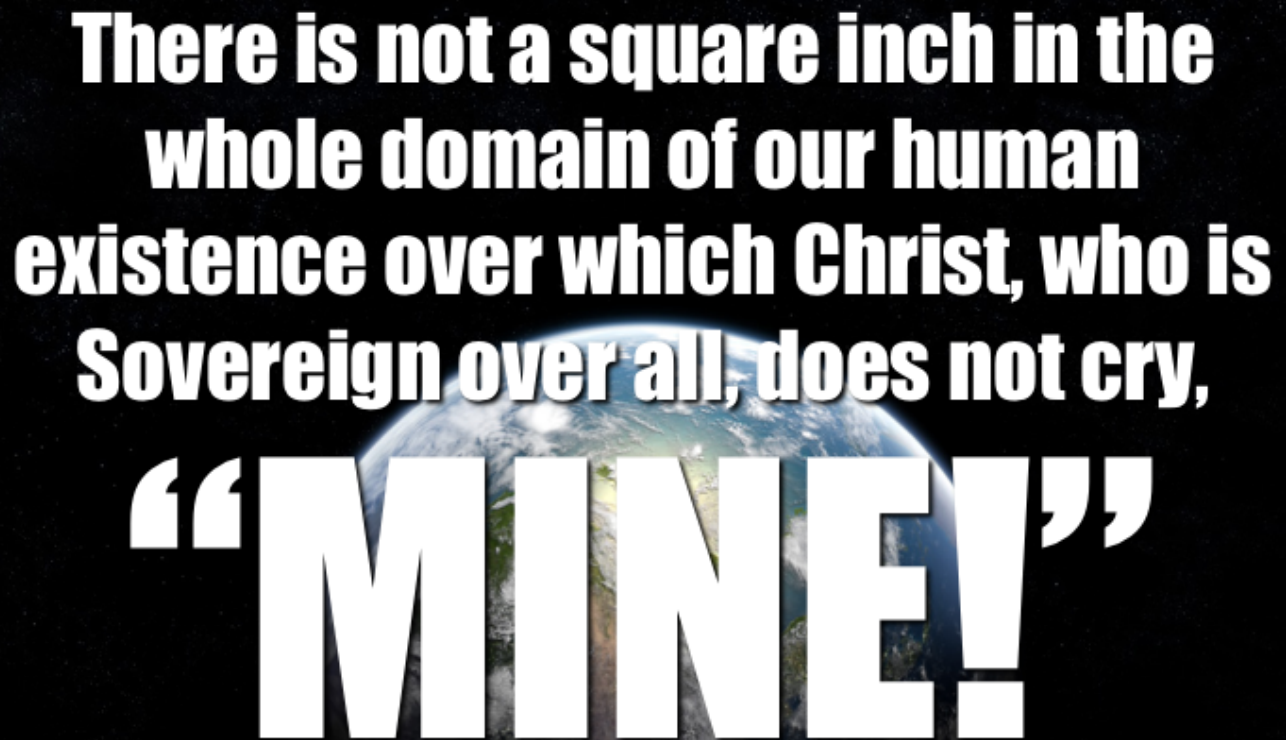


“...Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Colossians 2:2-3

Do you REALLY believe that in Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?” You do NOT, if you don’t have a Christian worldview.

The Christian worldview is the TRUE STORY of the world, the Story of Reality. And the Bible gives us KNOWLEDGE of reality.



**There is not a square inch in the
whole domain of our human
existence over which Christ, who is
Sovereign over all, does not cry,
“MINE!”**

This quote from Abraham Kuyper, a Dutch theologian, captures the all-encompassing truth of the Christian worldview.

