

W.E.C. #1 – General Worldview

Interacting with multiple “worldview bubbles”

- Atheism / Freudian Psychology / Buddhism / Evangelicalism / Islam / Secular Humanism / Mormonism / Judaism / Agnosticism / Jehovah’s Witness / Dutch Reformed / UFO Panspermia / Hinduism / Scientology / Relativism / Logical Positivism / Darwinism / Postmodernism / Communism / Existentialism / Irrationalism / Occult / Lutheran / Existentialism / Roman Catholicism / Rationalism / Behaviorism / Determinism / Modernism / Libertarianism / Pentecostal / Universal Unitarian / Freemasonry
- We all come from a bubble
- We all have a background, a tradition, an upbringing
- The challenge we face today as Christians is
 - How do we articulate the Gospel with those who come from a different background

We are simply one of the bubbles on the board

- How do we know we are right?
- If we were born in another bubble—wouldn’t we follow suit and believe it?
- Aren’t we all simply a product of our traditional upbringing?
- How do we defend the faith against others?
- How do we articulate the Gospel to these other worldviews?

We cannot escape reality (metaphysics)

- We are bound to it
- We cannot escape it
- We live / we die / we all find ourselves on the same planet in the same human bodies
- For this reason—we must understand 4 key principles:
 - Who am I? —Identity
 - Why am I here? —Purpose
 - What is the purpose of life?
 - What happens to me when I die? —Destiny
- And because of this reality, the most important question we need to answer is:
 - Who is God?
 - Is there a God?
 - Which God is the correct God?
 - What does He require of me?

We live outside of the church

- How do we communicate the Gospel truths to **today’s culture** facing **today’s problems**?

Our approach / method is the key

- Simply state the truth
- Set the parameters of the discussion
 - Start from the outside and work inward
 - Avoid getting tangled up in the weeds
 - Avoid the “battle of the wills”
- Expose inconsistencies / areas they never contemplated
 - Do this gently— in a friendly manner—“what would you say about...?”
 - Give the person space—allow them to think—be gentle here
- Sometimes less is more
 - Focus on one or two things
 - Do not overwhelm with information
- We are not trying to win
 - We are trying to communicate the Gospel in the best way possible
 - Plant seeds
 - God is the one who causes them to grow—not you
 - Be the best ambassador you can be
- Gain the person’s trust / develop a relationship with them / be genuine
 - Show that you care about the whole person / not trying to force

Theology—the study of God

Philosophy—the attempt to construct, describe, and defend a worldview

Worldview—an understanding of how the world works

- Metaphysics—
 - “Beyond the physical”
 - Study of reality / being / existence
 - What is the reality of the world we live in?
 - Reality about: God / humanity / the universe / life / death /
- Epistemology—
 - Study of knowledge and verifying it
 - How we know what we know
 - How we arrive at truth (sources)
 - Divine Revelation / mystical experiences / rationalism / empiricism / existentialism / modernism / postmodernism / scientism / irrationalism
- Ethics—How things “ought” to be / Right and wrong

Three Possible Worldview Scenarios (set the parameters for the discussion)

1 The Personal Triune God of the Bible—creation / fall / redemption / glory

2 The Impersonal God—Everything is god (Pantheism)

- We are all god—everything that exists is a part of god—we are all one
- We have strayed from this concept—we need “enlightenment”

- Based upon evolutionary origins

3 No God at all— Atheism

- God does not exist
- We are here by random chance
- Man is the highest evolved creature on earth
- All we can know is what our senses tell us

The importance of understanding other worldviews

- Better articulate the Gospel
- Better evangelize and counsel specific problems
- Confidence and boldness / Controlling your own emotions

Who is a part of each group?

- Metaphysics—what is the reality they prescribe
 - Biblical Triune God
 - Impersonal god = everything
 - No God
- Epistemology— authority source for knowledge / truth
 - Biblical Triune God
 - Impersonal god = everything
 - No God
- Ethics—who determines right and wrong?
 - Biblical Triune God
 - Impersonal god = everything
 - No God