

The Christian Worldview Compared With Other Worldviews

FCBC Bible Institute

Week 12 – December 2, 2008

Review of Christian Theism [Sire, pp. 23 – 44]
And Worldviews Within Christendom [Eckman, pp. 105 – 118]

I. Review of Christian Theism

1. What is the prime reality – the really real? *God is infinite and personal (triune), transcendent and immanent, omniscient, sovereign and good.*
2. What is the nature of external reality, that is, the world around us? *God created the cosmos ex nihilo to operate with a uniformity of cause and effect in an open system.*
3. What is a human being? *Human beings are created in the image of God and thus possess personality, self-transcendence, intelligence, morality, gregariousness and creativity. Human beings were created good, but through the Fall the image of God became defaced, though not so ruined as not to be capable of restoration; through the work of Christ, God redeemed humanity and began the process of restoring people to goodness, though any given person may choose to reject that redemption.*
4. What happens to a person at death? *For each person death is either the gate to life with God and his people or the gate to eternal separation from the only thing that will ultimately fulfill human aspirations.*
5. Why is it possible to know anything at all? *Human beings can know both the world around them and God himself because God has built into them the capacity to do so and because he takes an active role in communicating with them.*
6. How do we know what is right and wrong? *Ethics is transcendent and is based on the character of God as good (holy and loving).*
7. What is the meaning of human history? *History is linear: a meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God's purposes for humanity.*

II. Worldviews Within Christendom

A. Sacramental Traditions

1. Roman Catholicism

2. Eastern Orthodoxy

B. Protestant Traditions

1. Evangelical Protestantism

2. Mainline Protestantism

C. Why Are There Differences?

1. Basis of Authority

2. Influence of Naturalism and Existentialism