

**The Christian Worldview  
Compared With  
Other Worldviews**

FCBC Bible Institute

Week 7 – October 21, 2008

**Nihilism and Existentialism** [Sire, pp. 87 – 140]

**I. Nihilism: the natural offspring of Naturalism**

A. Definition: *The denial or negation of everything – knowledge, meaning, value, ethics, reality, and existence.*

B. How Naturalism becomes Nihilism: *In a material closed system with no God, all you have is the slavery of determinism or the absurdity of chance.*

C. How Naturalism becomes Nihilism: *The epistemological problem or How can we know anything is true or real?*

D. How Naturalism becomes Nihilism: *The ethical problem or How do we get from **Is** to **Ought**?*

D. Nihilism's Tensions ... with Reality!

## II. Existentialism: A Response to Nihilism

### Basic Tenets –

1. *The cosmos is composed solely of matter, but to human beings reality appears in two forms – subjective and objective.*
2. *For human beings alone existence precedes essence; people make themselves who they are.*
3. *Each person is totally free as regards their nature and destiny.*
4. *The highly wrought and tightly organized objective world stands over against human beings and appears absurd.*
5. *In full recognition of and against the absurdity of the objective world, the authentic person must revolt and create value.*