



OVERVIEW OF WORLDVIEWS

Understand some of the major worldviews that we encounter on a regular basis, whether we realize it or not.

(Though this* is not an exhaustive list, it is a great start)

KEY TERMS



CHRISTIANITY: A theistic worldview centered on the person of Jesus Christ that derives its understanding of the world through the teachings of the Holy Bible (see |

The Christian worldview says that God is the Eternal Creator who created both the spiritual and material worlds and made human beings in his image. Humanity is broken because of sin. Jesus' redemption makes it possible for us to experience healing and bring healing to every aspect of society.



ISLAM: A theistic worldview centered on the life of the prophet Muhammad that derives its understanding of the world through the teachings of the Quran, Hadith, and Sunnah (see |

Islam says that God is the Eternal Creator who made both the spiritual and material world and made human beings to serve him. Humanity is broken because we fail to submit to God. Redemption comes through jihad, which is the submission of every person – by force if necessary – to God's law, as revealed to the prophets, of whom Muhammad is the greatest.



SECULARISM: An atheistic and materialistic worldview that advocates for a public society free from the influence of religion (see |

The Secular worldview says that the physical universe is all there is; humanity is broken because of ignorance. Redemption comes through science, not religion.

*This chart is sourced from Summit Ministries (www.summit.org)



MARXISM: An atheistic and materialistic worldview based on the ideas of Karl Marx that promotes the abolition of private property, the public ownership of the means of production (i.e., socialism), and the utopian dream of a future communistic state (see |

The Marxist worldview says that the physical universe is all there is; humanity is broken because the rich took more than their fair share. Redemption comes through overthrowing society's structures and moving toward communism.



NEW SPIRITUALITY: A pantheistic worldview that teaches everyone and everything are connected through divine consciousness (see |

The New Spiritualist worldview says that everything that exists is an impersonal spiritual force that we call "God"; humanity is broken because of selfishness. Redemption comes by ridding ourselves of ego and melting into the oneness of things.



POSTMODERNISM: A skeptical worldview, founded as a reaction to modernism, which is suspicious of metanarratives and teaches that ultimate reality is inaccessible, knowledge is a social construct, and truth claims are political power plays (see |

The Postmodern worldview says that the physical universe is all there is; humanity is broken because those in power force everyone else to submit to their idea of ultimate truth. Redemption comes through regarding all such claims with suspicion and focusing instead on our own socially-constructed personal experiences.

Theism: the belief in some type of God.

Monotheism: the belief in only one God.

Pantheism: the belief in multiple gods. Also, that "god" is in everything, or that the Universe and God are the same thing.

Atheism: the lack of belief in any kind of God.

Materialism: the belief that the material world is the only reality, and that even spirituality comes from our mind.

Redemption: the act of being saved or rescued from sin, evil, error or problems. Regaining possession of something lost.

Socialism: a political and economic theory which advocates that the means of economic production should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.

Modernism: a social, political and economic movement of the early 20th century that reflected desires for change and new ways of doing almost everything.