

Competing Worldviews to Christianity: A Flyover of the Battlefield

Everywhere we go, we are affected by competing worldviews to Christianity that are present in our sports and entertainment arenas, libraries, schools, college campuses, and legislative buildings.

As a result, very few Americans today have a biblical worldview. The Barna Group reports that 6% of Americans have a biblical worldview, 61% agree with the ideas rooted in the new spirituality, 54% think with a postmodern mindset, 38% are sympathetic to the teachings of Islam, 36% accept many of the propositions of Marxism, and 29% think like secularists.

The church must act quickly to identify and rebut these false worldviews. I believe it was Francis Schaeffer who once stated that the church is always about seven years behind the world in its thinking and acting. Many unbiblical worldviews have permeated the philosophies and institutions of our society and they have also infiltrated the church and the Christian life.

This brief article addresses the worldviews of secularism, socialism, Roman Catholicism, Islam, the LGBTQ movement, racism, philosophies of work and poverty, and the use of technology. Christians must respond to these worldviews by looking to the Word of God. Scripture is all-sufficient to address each competing worldview on all matters, including the doctrine of sin, creation, and the divinity of Christ.

As we address these ideas, we must teach our children that the underlying solutions are always found in scripture. And that they are rooted in sin (Romans 3:23). Therefore, the solutions are found in deliverance from sin (Titus 2:11).

Here is a brief flyover of these worldviews and how they are different from Christianity.

1. Secularism

The worldview of secularism teaches that we are alone and that God is not present. The physical world is all there is. There is no one who can tell you what to think, feel, or do. Love is what you say it is. There are no answers except what your heart adopts. Suffering is meaningless. Life has no purpose. In short, this worldview excludes religion from every area of life.

Christianity: Scripture teaches that God is always present, He is the Creator of the universe, and He is love. Suffering has meaning and life has meaning. Politics, science, and emotions can be interpreted.

2. Socialism/Marxism

A socialist worldview believes that our problems are traced to the rich. You don't have your fair share. Rich people are evil, so we must confiscate their wealth. You cannot find love or satisfaction because the capitalists have rigged the system and we will only have peace if there is a revolution and redistribution. When capitalism is destroyed, we

will all belong to one another. It is the basis of the destruction of the family and Christian morality devolving into free sex. Societies and institutions must be overthrown.

Christianity: Scripture declares that God is our provider and He gives the ability to make people rich. The Bible teaches that rich people should help those in need and give according to their ability and the church should do the same.

3. Roman Catholicism

The Roman Catholic Church adds to the gospel by exalting man-made traditions over “thus saith the Lord.” If you commit a mortal sin and die without confessing sin to the priest, you will go to hell. The Roman Catholic Church also adds countless inventions to the worship of God.

Christianity: Scripture says that there is only one mediator between God and man and that Scripture is sufficient. There is no way to earn or merit salvation.

4. Islam

Islam preaches a different “gospel” by distorting every part of the Bible and rejecting original sin and the divinity of Jesus Christ. It is a gospel of obedience, brutal forced conversions, and Jihad. Further, there is no way for anyone to be sure of his status before God.

Christianity: The Bible declares that man cannot be justified by obedience to the law. ¹ It teaches original sin, the divinity of Jesus, the substitutionary atonement for sin, and justification by faith alone as our only assurance of salvation.

5. The LGBTQ Movement

The LGBTQ movement presents the idea that gender is a fluid concept and that one’s sexual orientation identity is not discoverable or determined by biology, but rather by attraction. It rejects the idea that sin causes a person to desire the opposite sex. There is no such thing as a gay person.

Christianity: Scripture declares that we are created male and female in the image of God ² and that in marriage, the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is head of the church. ³

6. Racism

The dictionary says that racism is “the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races.” It is a perspective that creates a spirit and

¹ Galatians 2:16 (New King James Version).

² Genesis 1:27 (New King James Version).

³ Ephesians 5:23 (New King James Version).

a culture of “prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.” Racism fosters the institutionalization of victimhood.

Christianity: The Bible declares that out of all the nationalities on earth, there is only “one blood.”⁴ There is no superior race. All people are created equal and in the image of God.⁵

7. Poverty and the Welfare State

The welfare state suggests poor people should be given money without working and that people are poor because of forces out of their control. If you give them enough money, they will be able to pull out of the cycle of poverty.

Christianity: Scripture says that “whoever does not work, neither let him eat,”⁶ that the church is obligated to discipline those who live a disorderly life,⁷ and that he who does not provide for his own is worse than an unbeliever.⁸ Jesus said that “the poor will always be with you.”⁹ Christianity is the solution to poverty. One of the great illustrations of this is the Protestant Reformation, which saved Europe from poverty.

8. Technology

Technology always presents new challenges, but many of those challenges are not immediately perceived. Technology has the potential to pollute the soul and distract from faithfulness. Technology can disrupt the most important things in life.

Christianity: Scripture calls believers to “redeem the time” (Ephesians 5:16) and to “set no unclean thing before my eyes” (Psalm 101:1-2).

The Lord has expressed much kindness to fallen man, in that He has given him an infallible testimony by which all worldviews can be judged. He offers not only discernment, but the way out through, “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).

⁴ Acts 17:26 (New King James Version).

⁵ Genesis 1:27 (New King James Version).

⁶ 2 Thessalonians 3:10 (New King James Version).

⁷ 2 Thessalonians 3:6 (New King James Version)

⁸ 1 Timothy 5:8 (New King James Version).

⁹ Mark 14:7 (New King James Version)