

How do I evaluate a worldview?

The world is full of people with different ways to understand the world around them. In general, each truly believes that their understanding is the only rational way to understand the world and all others fall short of rationality. Although there is variation within the worldviews, some of the more basic views include:

1. Biblical Christianity – Core of truth is found in the Bible. Jesus Christ died for the sins of man.
2. Non-Biblical Theism – The exalted being “God,” created all things and is the final judge of all
3. Naturalism – Nature and matter is all that exists. Everything knowable extends from matter.
4. Nihilism – Extension of Naturalism in which knowledge is unknowable. Existence is unknowable.
5. Existentialism – Extension of Naturalism which seeks to identify purpose and significance to human beings
6. Eastern Pantheistic Monism – Soul of individuals comprises the soul of the cosmos. The divine is in all things.
7. New Age Spirituality – Pursuit of a new consciousness that transcends theism by focusing on the individual person
8. Postmodernism – The rejection of authority and knowable truth
9. Islamic Theism – Adherence to the Qu'ran as the ultimate explanation of God (Allah)
10. Prophet led – Adherence to the teachings of an individual or individuals to understand truth

1. How can one know truth?

John **17:17**

Deuteronomy **18:17-22**

Hosea **4:1-2**

There are basically three sources of truth. The written words of the founder of the worldview. The continuation of the founder's office through the passage of that position. The rejection of the existence of truth itself. The first source recognize the existence of one or more prophets in its history. These prophets claimed to be speaking for the supreme authority. The second source begins with a single prophet claiming to be speaking for God who then passes his authority to speak on behalf of God to one of his followers (Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Roman Catholicism, etc). The third rejects the existence of a knowable truth itself. There are either multiple inconsistent truths or there is no such thing as truth.

2. What is the validity of that truth source?

John **3:12**

Isaiah **48:3-8**

Malachi **3:6**

Every worldview asserts the existence of absolute, undeniable truth (even the worldviews that deny the existence of absolute, undeniable truth). The truth claims of the worldview can be tested against history and empirical analysis to see whether or not the truth claim lines up with what is actually known. Make sure to evaluate the worldview based upon what its prophets state is true not on how its adherents follow that truth claim. Truth claims that claim to come from the supreme exalted being (God) can be further tested to see if the supreme being actually knows all things by telling his followers aspects of the future in sufficient detail to rule out most possible fulfillment events and presented at a sufficient length of time before the event so that only the supreme being could have

known the details. Finally consider the consistency of the truth sayings. Conflicting truth sayings indicates that the prophet making the truth saying is unreliable and therefore cannot be a legitimate source of such truth sayings.

3. What guidelines does the worldview provide for those living today?

Jeremiah **44:15-19**

Ecclesiastes **12:13-14**

Proverbs **20:6**

Worldviews indicate that life is to be lived according to a person's own experiences or lived according to one's own recognized goodness, or lived according to the boundaries established by God. As the pathway for conducting life is examined, it is important to question the validity of the nature of the pathway. When two worldviews collide at some point, the basis behind the worldview's path should be analyzed to consistency and applicability toward all people. Can a person's personal experience be relied upon for appropriate behavior in all cases? Can a person's personal opinion be universally applicable? Are the writings of the prophet on behalf of God trustworthy and reliable? Does the prophet's guidance universally applicable?

4. Does the ultimate or final outcome options for people adequately reflect true justice and adherence to the worldview's standards?

Revelation **20:11-15**

Isaiah **59:4**

Ecclesiastes **3:19-20**

Some worldviews support the existence of annihilation of some or all people, which rejects the existence of justice apart from whatever legal or justice system that exists. Other worldviews support the idea that all people will dwell eternally in paradise, which also rejects justice. Any worldview that directly or indirectly supports the idea of people living without any sense of accountability should be questioned as to whether the standards of the worldview are appropriate or even useful.

5. Where does the worldview lead the follower?

Matthew **7:21-23**

Luke **6:39-49**

John **5:24-25**

Some worldviews lead to inconsistencies such as a prophet who does not prophesy or a prophet who prophesied false things. Some worldviews lead to a trust in the absurd such as knowing that nothing is knowable. Only one worldview will lead the follower to eternal life.