

How does the World Think?

The Importance of Worldviews



All stories teach, whether the story-teller intends them to or not. They teach the world we create. They teach the morality we live by. They teach it much more effectively than moral precepts and instructions.

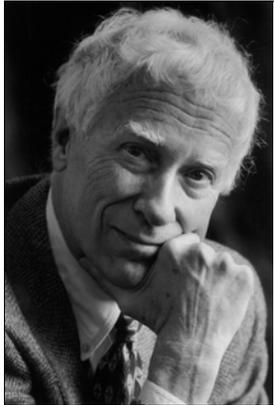
Philip Pullman



Gravity (Alfonso Cuaron, 2013)

discuss

What do you think Alfonso Cuarón is saying in this scene from *Gravity* (whether intentionally or not)?



Works of art 'are not simply the oozings of subconscious impulses; they are the result of beliefs and goals on the part of the artist.'

Nicholas Wolterstorff

To think intelligently today, means to think worldviewishly, to come to terms with the mosaic of meaning systems which make up modern thinking.

Os Guinness



Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. . . . Love your neighbour as yourself.

Mark 12:30-31, NIV

discuss

Spend 10 minutes outside looking carefully at the shops around Above Bar Church.

What traces of worldviews can you identify?

What is a worldview?

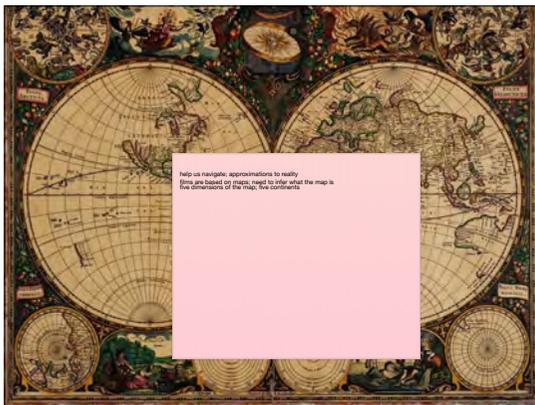
Emmanuel Kant:
weltanschauung = an understanding of the meaning of the world and of our place within it



Søren Kierkegaard:
a set of beliefs so basic that we live within it – it determines who we are.



Wilhelm Dilthey:
a comprehensive vision of life which aims to express the deepest meaning of the world and to answer the ultimate questions of life



World-views are not products of thought. They do not originate from the mere will to know. The comprehension of reality is an important factor in their formation, but only one. They emerge from our attitude to, and knowledge of, life and from our whole mental structure.

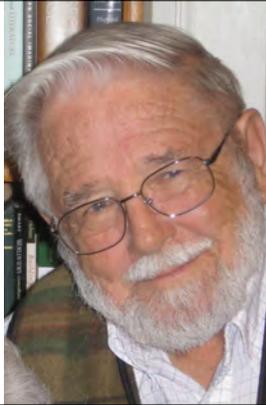
Wilhelm Dilthey



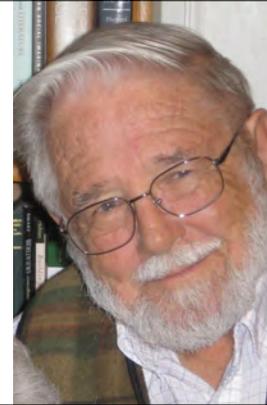
think

Think about your friends.
How do they see the world?
What is the foundation of their lives?
How do they navigate life?

James Sire: A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) . . .



. . . that we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.
Naming the Elephant,
p. 122



A worldview is a **commitment** . . .

Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.
Psalm 62:1-2 (NIV)

I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.
'Invictus', W.E. Henley

a fundamental **orientation**
of the **heart** . . .

Heart = 'your innermost being, the gut of yourself, the deepest centre of your existence, the source of your thoughts, feelings and actions'
John Kok
Patterns of the Western Mind, p. 190

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James Sire, *Naming the Elephant*, p. 122

The point is, our worldview is not precisely
what we may state it to be. It is what is
actualized in our behavior. We live our
worldview or it isn't our worldview. What we
actually hold, for example, about the nature
of fundamental reality may not be what we
say.

James Sire
Naming the Elephant, p. 133



If Christianity is
truth, it ought to
touch on the whole
of life . . .



Christianity must
never be reduced
merely to an intell-
ectual system . . .
After all, if God is
there, it isn't just an
answer to an
intellectual question
. . .



. . . we're called
upon to adore him,
to be in rela-tionship
to him, and, inciden-
tally, to obey him.

Francis Schaeffer

worldview → attitudes → practices

Spirituality concerns how humans relate to reality – to themselves, to each other, to the world around them and (most importantly) to ultimate reality – via their worldview beliefs, concomitant attitudes and subsequent behaviour.

Peter S. Williams

Likewise, apologetics isn't just about getting people to change their minds, but their fundamental spiritual allegiance; and spirituality is a matter of worldview beliefs married to attitudes that sustain actions.

Peter S. Williams

Engaging with worldviews

How to relate the Christian worldview to a non-Christian world has been the dilemma of Christian spokespersons since the apostle Paul addressed the Stoic and Epicurean philosophers in Athens.

Kenneth D. Boa & Robert M. Bowman Jr.
Faith Has Its Reasons



double listening

listening to the word

listening to the world

These voices will often contradict one another, but our purpose in listening to them both is to discover how they relate to each other.

...



... Double listening is indispensable to Christian discipleship and Christian mission.

John Stott
The Contemporary Christian



Our hope is to bring facets of the richness of the gospel to bear on the lives, beliefs, values, and identities of lost human beings.

Gregory E. Ganssle

Five dimensions of worldviews

5 worldview dimensions



discuss

Which worldview dimensions come up here?

What is the clip saying about these worldview dimensions?

What can you celebrate?

What should you challenge?

TonyWatkins.uk