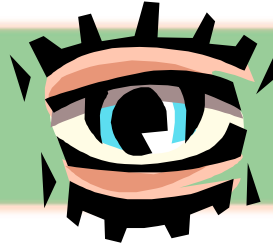


GOD'S

...developing a Christian worldview



VIEW

INTRODUCTION

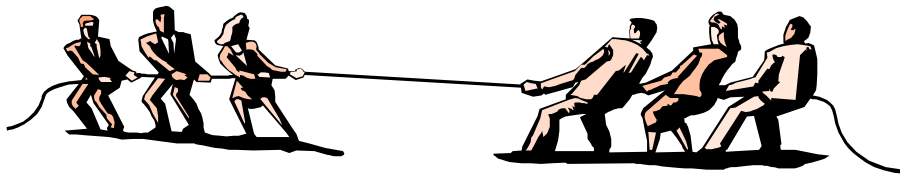
Read as a group the story, "Dave and Katy's Metaphysical Adventure" from pages 41-50 in How Now Shall We Live by Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey.

How would you define the term worldview?

How do you feel about expressing Christian ideas in your classes and/or in term papers etc?

How many of you have ever had or have now the thought that your Christian faith has little to do with the discipline you are studying at the university? Be honest!

THE BATTLE IN THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- God — is an uncaused, all powerful, knowledgeable, loving, just, eternal being who is distinct from creation, whose presence is everywhere.
- Physical Universe—was created by God for his own will and purposes.
- Humans—extremely valuable creations in the image of God, yet corrupted by sin and in need of redemption/salvation.
- Afterlife—we are resurrected to eternal life in a perfect new world or judgment based on receiving God's free and gracious offer of salvation through Jesus Christ.

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY

- God — Everything is part of god, in fact, you are god. You may worship any deity or form you like.
- Physical Universe—many ascribe divinity to creation itself with the monistic idea of the "oneness of all being". Some put forth the "Gaia" hypothesis, classifying earth itself as a living organism.
- Humans — Are viewed as divine, as co-creator, as the hope for future peace and harmony.
- Afterlife — Though not all New Agers adhere to reincarnation, most believe in some form or another.

* Note: The New Age movement in one sense is indefinable. It prides itself in being non-creedal and flexible, not rigid and classifiable. Nevertheless, the above will give you some ideas of some of the common beliefs.

SECULAR WORLDVIEW

- God — Find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. As non-theists, they begin with humans not God, nature not deity. *
- Physical Universe — self-existing "by chance" from nothing.
- Humans — material beings who evolved from inorganic chemicals.
- Afterlife — We continue to exist in our progeny and in the way that our lives have influenced others in our culture.*

* direct quotes from the Humanist Manifesto II—1973

Charles Francis Potter, a signer of the first Humanist Manifesto (1933) and author of a book titled, Humanism: A New Religion, made the comment that, "Education is the most powerful ally of Humanism... What can the theistic Sunday Schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?"

"Many times we blindly accept that which we do not even know to be contrary to the truth"

We will be using as "A tool of worldview investigation" – J. Budziszewski's book – "How to stay a Christian in college" to learn what God thinks of His world, and how we can better serve him in it.