

# Reason and Worldviews – Key

Date:   10/21/18  

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

– Jesus, Jn. 15:11

“The trouble about argument is that it moves the whole struggle onto the Enemy’s own ground. He can argue too; whereas in really practical propaganda of the kind I am suggesting He has been shown for centuries to be greatly the inferior of Our Father Below. By the very act of arguing, you awake the patient’s reason; and once it is awake, who can foresee the result?”

– Screwtape, *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis

## God's Dream for You

What do you think God is like? What does He want for you? Answers may vary. Loving Father, stern judge, .... He loves you and wants you to be happy and free.

What is the connection between holiness and happiness? When you do the right thing, even if it's hard, you are happier afterwards. The same things that make you holy also make you happy.

What is the purpose of rules? How do they connect with God’s dream for us? Rules are there to help us. Rules → become better version → happiness.

## The Best Kind of Worldview

What is a "worldview"? A set of core ideas / beliefs. A story that frames how you view everything else, or a lens through which you view the world.

What makes one worldview better than another? What makes it worthy? What makes it lame?

<b>Quality</b>	<b>A sound / healthy worldview will have all these qualities:</b>	<b>A broken / invalid worldview will have one or more of these qualities:</b>
Based on <i>all evidence</i> ? Or <i>selected evidence</i> ?	All evidence	Selected evidence
Relies on <i>facts</i> ? Or <i>assertions</i> ?	Facts	Assertions
Relies on <i>feelings</i> ? Or <i>reasons</i> to logical conclusions?	Reasons – logical conclusions	Feelings
Argues about <i>persons</i> ? Or <i>ideas</i> ?	Ideas	Persons
Is <i>self-consistent</i> ? Or is <i>self-contradictory</i> ?	Self-consistent	Self-contradictory
Uses <i>name-calling, shouting, shutting down</i> ? Or <i>rationally engages</i> criticisms?	Rationally engages criticism	Name-calling, shouting, etc.
Bottom line: <i>truth</i> or <i>ideology</i> ?	Truth	Ideology

## Reason

Notice how reason, evidence, logic, and related concepts appear repeatedly in the table above.

Who founded modern science? Christians, often clerics.

Who funded these founders of modern science? Primarily the Church.

Who is one of the strongest champions of reason in the modern world? The Catholic Church.

## Christianity vs. Post-modernism

What are some examples that show that our post-modern culture has a broken, false, and invalid worldview, a “nightmare”? AMV. Examples:

1. That there is no right or wrong. But at the same time, \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong.
2. People have (absolute) rights. But only if most others agree.
3. That persons are defined by their demographics but racism is wrong.

What are some key aspects of the Christian worldview? That God made us on purpose. That He loves us and wants us to be happy. That life has meaning. That we have purpose. That we can know right from wrong. That reason is good, and more important than emotions in finding the truth. That truth exists and we can find it. ....

Name three moral issues which the Church teaches are wrong, but the culture teaches are right:

1. abortion
2. divorce
3. contraception

What kind of consequences does the Christian view predict for these actions? Bad

What kind of consequences does the post-modern view predict? Good

Are the actual consequences of doing these good or bad? Bad

Which worldview makes the true predictions? Catholic

Which one is consistent? Catholic                      Which one is incoherent? Secular Culture

**Clarification:** What is the connection between wrong actions and bad consequences?

- (a) ~~they are wrong because they have bad consequences, or~~  
(b) because they are wrong, they will have bad consequences

## Why does it matter?

Worldviews are important because a person who holds an incoherent worldview isn't just failing a pop quiz, but is wrong about reality itself. As Jesus Himself said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free!”