

Reason and Worldviews

Date: _____

“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 is the connection between holiness and happiness?

What is the purpose of rules? How do they connect with God’s dream for us?

The Best Kind of Worldview

What is a "worldview"?

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

Quality	A sound / healthy worldview will have all these qualities:	A broken / invalid worldview will have one or more of these qualities:
Based on <i>all evidence</i> ? Or <i>selected evidence</i> ?		
Relies on <i>facts</i> ? Or <i>assertions</i> ?		
Relies on <i>feelings</i> ? Or <i>reasons</i> to logical conclusions?		
Argues about <i>persons</i> ? Or <i>ideas</i> ?		
Is <i>self-consistent</i> ? Or is <i>self-contradictory</i> ?		
Uses <i>name-calling, shouting, shutting down</i> ? Or <i>rationally engages</i> criticisms?		
Bottom line: <i>truth</i> or <i>ideology</i> ?		

Reason

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

Who founded modern science?

Who funded these founders of modern science?

Who is one of the strongest champions of reason in the modern world?

Christianity vs. Post-modernism

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

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are some key aspects of the Christian worldview?

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

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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

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

Are the actual consequences of doing these good or bad?

Which worldview makes the true predictions?

Which one is consistent?

Which one is incoherent?

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!”