**Worldview and Genesis**

1. 9/11 – was this right or wrong? Why?

2. Does the world just need better values?

* Integrity first
* Service before self
* Excellence in all we do

3. Genesis

* Why is a proper understanding of Genesis so important for Christians – and for the world?

4. Jean Paul Sartre

* The basic philosophical question is that something is there
* Implication: How do you explain that?

5. Worldview – Francis Schaeffer

* “By presuppositions we mean the basic way an individual looks at life, his basic world view, the grid through which he sees the world.”

6. Worldview Definition

* The big picture of how we look at all things
* Person’s interpretation of reality and basic view of life
* The things you assume are true

7. Worldview

* Santa Claus

8. Worldview

* One’s thought world leads to one’s actions

9. Worldview Framework

* The OPD Questions
* Origin – where did I come from?
* Purpose – why am I here?
* Destiny – where am I going?
* Christian worldview has only set of consistent answers

10. Worldview Framework

* Metaphysics
* Cosmology – origins
* Ontology – existence
* Ethics & Morals
* Epistemology – knowledge

11. Framework for a Worldview

* Metaphysics – origin and nature of existence

12. Worldview Framework

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Metaphysics | |
| Cosmology – origin, structure, and relationships of universe | * Where did everything come from? * Where did complexity and order come from? |
| Ontology – nature of being, existence | Who am I, and why am I here? |

13. Framework for a Worldview

* Ethics & Morals – human values and conduct

14. Worldview Framework

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| Ethics and Morals | |
| Human Values and Conduct | * How should people behave? * Why is the world in such a mess? * What can be done about it? |

15. Framework for a Worldview

* Epistemology – nature and grounds of knowledge

16. Worldview Framework

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| --- | --- |
| Epistemology | |
| Nature and grounds of knowledge | * How do we come to know truth? * How do we know it’s really true? |

17. Metaphysics – Cosmology

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Origins – 3 Possibilities | |
| 1. Out of absolutely nothing came something | Naturalism |
| 2. Always has been an impersonal something from which all that exists has come |
| 3. Always has been a personal someone who made all that exists | Supernaturalism |

18. Metaphysics – Cosmology

* Which one is correct?
* Regardless, it will be a “faith” assertion
* No human witnesses recording the event
* An informed faith

19. Metaphysics – Cosmology

* Informed Faith – not a leap in the dark
* Therefore, evaluate the evidence

20. Metaphysics – Cosmology

* What evidence do we have?
* Orderly and complex universe
* People who are unique

21. Metaphysics – Cosmology

* A Creator absolutely necessary

22. Metaphysics – Cosmology

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Origins – 3 Possibilities | |
| 1. Out of absolutely nothing came something | Naturalism |
| 2. Always has been an impersonal something from which all that exists has come |
| 3. Always has been a personal someone who made all that exists | Supernaturalism |

23. Metaphysics – Cosmology

* What evidence do we have?
* The Biblical account in Genesis
* The infinite-personal God created all things by His own will
* Current scientific evidence confirms Biblical explanation

24. Metaphysics – Ontology

* Cosmology logically leads to ontology

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| --- | --- |
| Cosmological View | Ontological View |
| Absolutely nothing existed | * People are only a result of matter + time + chance * No intrinsic purpose |
| An impersonal something has always existed |
| A personal someone has always existed | * People created with “rules for use” * Have intrinsic purpose |

25. Metaphysics – Ontology

* What does the Bible say about this?
* The Biblical account in Genesis
* People created by God as unique – created in God’s image
* People created with personality
* People created with purpose

26. Ethics & Morals

* Cosmology and ontology logically lead to views about ethics and morals

27. Ethics & Morals

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| --- | --- |
| Ethics | Morals |
| “What ought to be” | “What is” |
| Universal, timeless, transcendent principles of right and wrong | Changing customs and behaviors |
| Values/Standards | Actions |

28. Ethics & Morals

* What does the Bible say about this?
* The Biblical account in Genesis
* God set ethical absolutes
* God’s “rules for use” are not constraining, but freeing and good for people

29. Ethics & Morals

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| Cosmological View | How should people behave? | Why is the world in a mess? | What can be done? |
| Absolutely nothing existed | There can be no absolute standards – they are arbitrary | The current mess is normal | Pass laws.  Try to be good – in essence, nothing |
| An impersonal something always existed |
| A personal someone always existed | According to what God says is good | Sin – the current mess is abnormal | Repent and believe in Christ |

30. Ethics & Morals

* Implications of humanistic perspective

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| S | No Standards are possible |
| J | No one can make a Judgment |
| A | No one can be held Accountable |
| E | No one can Enforce anything |
| C | Chaos |

31. Epistemology

* Two basic sources of knowledge
* People discover it and interpret it on their own
* God reveals truth to people

32. Epistemology

* Two basic sources of knowledge

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cosmological View | Epistemological View |
| Absolutely nothing existed | * People alone must discover knowledge because God does not exist |
| An impersonal something existed |
| A personal someone existed | * God reveals knowledge in the Bible * People can discover truth and reality |

33. Epistemology

* Caveats about God’s revelation
* Bible is true in all it says, to include history and science, and is open to verification
* Bible is not exhaustive truth
* People are finite and cannot know everything, but people can know truly

34. What Next?

* Adopt a Christian worldview
* Become fluent in that worldview
* Utilize that worldview in interpreting what is happening in today’s society