

Christianity vs. Naturalism

...

& Four *ULTIMATE* Questions

What is Naturalism?

Naturalism is a worldview that tells there is only the PHYSICAL, and *no God is in control of the universe.*

NOTHING



THIS BOX REPRESENTS OUR UNIVERSE. THE EARTH, ANIMALS, HUMANS..... EVERYTHING PHYSICAL IS IN OUR OWN LITTLE BUBBLE. OUTSIDE THE BOX IS THE SPIRITUAL REALM- ANGELS, DEMONS, AND ESPECIALLY GOD.

NATURALISM BELIEVES THAT THERE IS NOTHING OUTSIDE OF OUR PHYSICAL "REALITY"

How Does Naturalism Show???

There are 4 main belief forms that Naturalism takes.

- Nihilism
 - ◆ Its focus is on how life is *hopeless*.
- Materialism
 - ◆ **STUFF** is more important.
- Hedonism
 - ◆ The pleasures of life are the main point.
- Humanism
 - ◆ It's a course on how to make *{human life}* better.

Why Does it Matter???

Why do people worry (or not worry) about beliefs?

What is the big difference?

Why should YOU worry about your view of the world?

That's a Lot of Questions..... & there are two answers.

1. It changes how you see every event in life.

Your worldview is like an iPhone camera filter. Each one looks different. And each one changes how you see the world around you and how you capture it.



2. It affects all of your other beliefs about life...

It is like a *domino effect*... the way you see the world, beginning with your worldview...

{spiritual + physical, only spiritual, only physical}

...will change what you believe about God, how the world came about, our behavior & nature, society, rules and regulations, the government, our economy, and our past.



There are four ultimate questions that determine your worldview. They are...

- Where did everything come from?
- What is the meaning of life?
- What is right & wrong, and who determines it?
- What happens when we die?

Where did everything come from?

Worldview 1: Biblical

- One of the most debated questions in history is answered firmly within the first five words of the Bible.
 - “In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth.”
Genesis 1:1
- The Bible gives a full account of how God purposefully created the universe as well as our planet, wildlife, and especially us.

Worldview 2: Naturalistic

- In brief, Naturalism teaches that the world came about by chance. By accident and the perfect conditions, life slowly evolved from a simple organism to human life today.
- This is a brief account of Darwinian Evolution. How life came about is a *theory*; the theory is presented as fact.

What is the Meaning of life?

Worldview 1: Biblical

- This question is answered based on our ORIGIN (the first question). If God created us with a purpose, then we should fulfill it, right?
 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his **purpose**.” -Romans 8:28
- But what is God’s purpose? Since He created us and sent His son as a sacrifice to gain us back, then our purpose is to spread the beautiful news of His love and forgiveness.

Worldview 2: Naturalism

- Like in a Christian worldview, this answer is also branched off of how life came about. If we came about by accident, then we don’t have a sole purpose. Instead, life is filled by pleasure, making the most of it, and having an “Eat, Drink, and Be Merry for Tomorrow We Die” sort of attitude. If nothing great is done in your lifetime, you are hardly remembered. Where is the purpose in that?

What is Right & Wrong, and Who Determines It?

Worldview 1: Biblical

- Everyone knows that there is such thing as a Moral Compass, or a Moral Code. It seems to be ingrained within us. So if there is a Moral Law, then shouldn't there be a Moral Lawgiver?
 - The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.”
Exodus 12:49
- In the CREATION of the universe, God ultimately wrote in stone a Moral Law that applies to everyone (*Moral Absolutes*). He gave it to us through the teachings and commands found in the Bible. Although EVERY specific topic may not be addressed (such as texting & driving), every concept that has been given can be applied to those situations.

Worldview 2: Naturalistic

- There are two ways to possibly explain the Moral Compass within us.
 - *Individual Moral Relativism*: The law, or boundaries, is determined by the person. Usually, the guideline is “as long as no one gets hurt” or “if it makes me happy”.
 - *Cultural Moral Relativism*: This is similar to Individual, but it is based on Culture. The culture has a basis for right and wrong, determined by the people.
- The problems with both of these is that the morals, whether individual or cultural, are bound to contradict at some point. Our hearts are ultimately sinful. In the end, the one with power will be the ruler of rules. “Might Makes Right” will make right or wrong.

What Happens When We Die?

Worldview 1: Biblical

- This one, again, branches off of our origin. Before God created life, He created a home called Heaven where He dwells.
 - “Thus the **heavens** and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.”
Genesis 2:1
- When we die, our new life becomes eternal. If we decided to trust God with our lives, then our new home is Heaven. If we rejected Him, then our destination is Hell. But God created a place of peace and assurance where we can live with Him forever.

Worldview 2: Naturalistic

- Since it was by accident that we became life, then there is nothing after it. This has a lot to do with our PURPOSE (the second question). If there is nothing after death, then our one and only life is on Earth. Make the most of it.
- Can't you see how there is no assurance in this? How you came about is uncertain, and there is nothing after death.

Five Main Points..

OUT OF THE FOUR QUESTIONS, THERE ARE FIVE MAIN POINTS TO BE DRAWN OUT.

- 1) Theism explains the certainty of how everything came into existence.
- 2) Since God is perfect and orderly, He established a world of order and design that has been able to run for thousands of years. From the amount of detail in creation to the perfection of systems, there is proven order and design in the world.
- 3) Being made in God's Image explains the intelligence and creativity of human life.
- 4) It shows why even remote cultures have some belief in God without any cultural influence. It is a perfect explanation of why every human has a need and a drive for something more- only fulfilled by God.
- 5) Creation explains how we have a Moral Compass ingrained within us, and that the Moral Lawgiver has purpose in morality.

Personally...

These are all some nice facts, but they mean nothing unless they are **TAKEN PERSONALLY** by you and me. The point that has touched me most is that if I was not created, then there would be no purpose to *fulfill* my life. And, for the record, there is a lot of *purpose*. God has called us to spread the *light and love* that we know dearly to people who have sadly **never known it**. There is a serene peace in knowing that you were *designed* by an intelligent Creator, with a *purpose*, with a guideline on how to live, and that there is an *assurance of destiny* when we die, and that each of these prove each other. Since Jesus willingly gave away His life for us in order to ensure our destiny, all we can do is give our lives back to Him so that those in the darkness can taste the sweetness of the *Light*.



-P.J.H.



"For I know the plans
I have for you,"

declares the Lord

"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you
plans to give you
hope and a future."

JEREMIAH 29:11

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