

*Worldview, Theology,
& Culture*



First Baptist Church, McLoud

Every Worldview Asks Three Questions:

1. Where did we come from?
2. What is wrong in the world?
3. What is the solution?



Every worldview (whether it be a Christian, Hindu, Muslim, or Secular worldview) answers these three questions:

1. Creation

2. Fall

3. Redemption

CREATION – WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- The Christian faith teaches that everything was created by God.
 - Genesis 1:1
- The Christian faith teaches that mankind was made in the image of God.
 - Genesis 1:27
- The Christian worldview of creation is important. *Why?*
 - Because our view of creation impacts the way we interact with our fellow man (i.e., our ethics).
 - See James 4:5-12
- We treat people with kindness and love because our worldview demands it.
- Our actions stem from our beliefs
 - *Ideas (right or wrong) have consequences!*

Compare to the Hindu worldview:¹

Society is divided into four main groups (with a fifth, "the untouchables," outside of the caste system).

Passage from the Rig Veda: (The world was formed from Purusa whose body is described as follows.)

The brahmin was his mouth, his two arms became the rajanya (kshatriyas), his thighs are what the vaisya are, and from his feet the shudra was made.

¹ The following is taken from <http://philosophy.lander.edu/oriental/caste.html> on October 28, 2012 at 2:58p.

FALL – WHAT WENT WRONG?

- The world is not as it should be. (Compare Gen 1 with Gen 3.)
- Christians teach and believe that evil was brought on by the willful rebellion of man (Gen 3)
- According to our Christian faith, the problem is that man has become rebellious
- In short, the world is in need of redemption due to sin

Compare this, for example, to the “Christian Science” movement²

- There is no real thing as “evil”
- Evil is basically an illusion; it doesn’t exist

REDEMPTION – HOW IS IT FIXED?

- Christianity believes in the life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus the Messiah
- He died a **substitutionary** death (2 Cor 5:21)
- He **physically arose** from the dead (1 Cor. 15)
- Salvation by **grace** through **faith** in **Christ** (Eph 2:8-9)

² Cf. <http://christianscience.com/read-online/retrospection-and-introspection/sin-sinner-and-ecclesiasticism>

Compare to Hindu & Christian Worldview

- *Salvation in Hinduism:*
 - “There is no clear concept of salvation in Hinduism. Moksha (freedom from infinite being and selfhood and final self-realization of the truth), is the goal of existence. Yoga and meditation (especially raja-yoga) taught by a guru (religious teacher) is one way to attain moksha. The other valid paths for moksha are: the way of works (karma marga), the way of knowledge (jnana marga), or the way of love and devotion (bhakti marga). Hindus hope to eventually get off the cycle of reincarnation. They believe the illusion of personal existence will end and they will become one with the impersonal God.”³
 - “Mist into the ocean”
 - This worldview is observed in Hindu cremation

- *Salvation in Christian Science*
 - “Since sin and death are false beliefs (illusions), salvation involves overcoming the false idea that they exist with a realization of our divine spirit and mind. "We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter" (S&H, p. 497).⁴

³ Taken from <http://www.4truth.net/fourtruthpbworld.aspx?pageid=8589952127> on October 28, 2012 at 3:27p

⁴ Taken from http://www.4truth.net/Christian_Science/ on October 28, 2012 at 3:30p

What Now?

1. The Christian (world)view on salvation leads us to think and act differently.

Suppose that it's the year 2900. And archeologists discover ruins in a place formerly known as "McCloud, Oklahoma." They discover that the Christians in McCloud believed the following things:

1. That God sent His Son, Jesus, to die in their place.
2. That they believed they ought to come together and worship at certain times of the week, particularly Sunday.
3. That they ought to love one another and be kind to one another.

After doing some further research and investigation, the archeologists soon discovered that these Christians in McCloud believed the things they did, and lived the way they lived, because they all held to basic fundamental assumptions and cherished a certain type of worldview. Therefore,

- 1. Why did Christians find it necessary to believe that God sent His Son to die on a cross?**
 - Because they believed that (1) mankind is personally sinful; and (2) God loves people and has not abandoned them.
- 2. Why did they believe they ought to come together and worship on certain days of the week, particularly Sunday?**
 - Because they believed in this idea called "Resurrection"—namely, the resurrection of Jesus.

- And secondly, they believed that they were, mysteriously, the spiritual body of their Savior on this earth.
 - Through the Holy Spirit, the “church at McCloud” saw themselves as God’s presence on the earth.
 - And also, they valued each individual as a vital part of the greater whole.

3. Why were Christians so kind to one another?

- Because their worldview taught them to **believe** that all people (regardless of race, gender, etc) are created in the image of God.
 - They believed, most fundamentally, that God was Creator.
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