

Worldviews Chart

World View Questions	Christian Theism	Deism	Materialism Naturalism	Nihilism	Existentialism	Pantheism	New Age	Post-modernism
1. What is prime reality – the really real?	God is infinite, personal (triune), transcendent and immanent, omniscient, sovereign and good.	God is transcendent, not imminent, merely an architect, not a judge or lover of his creation.	Matter or the cosmos exists externally, and is all that there is, and will ever be.	Matter is all there is.	God does not exist.	All that exist are gods. Reality is a hierarchy of appearances.	No existence of God.	Language functions are used to construct meaning.
2. What is the nature of external reality; that is, the world around us?	God created cosmos ex nihilo to operate with a uniformity of cause and effect in an open system.	A uniformity of a cause and effect system no alterations are possible.	A uniformity of a cause and effect system, more complicated than clock in motion, but alterations are still not possible.	Cosmos operates without uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system; matter is all there is.	Cosmos made of matter, reality either subjective or objective. Makes no difference.	The soul of each and every human being is the soul of the cosmos.	Unified in the self. Manifested in visible and invisible universe.	The truth of the universe and reality is hidden from us.
3. What is a human being?	Human beings created in image of God thus possess personality, self-transcendence, intelligence, morality, gregariousness, and creativity.	Personal beings, but only part of the clockwork of the creation, no relation to God.	Complex machines, composed of matter, but not fully understood.	Complex machines, composed of matter, but not fully understood.	Existence precedes essence; humans make themselves who they are. Man defines himself.	Each person is god, and is impersonal.	The self is the kingpin, or the prime reality. Human beings on the verge of radical change.	Human beings make themselves who they are. We describe what the "I" is to us.
4. Why is it possible to know anything at all?	Human beings know both world around them and God himself because God has built into them capacity to do so and because he takes active role in communicating with them.	We create our knowledge from our station in life, and the experiences that go along with it.	Science gives understanding to all.	There is no knowing, because of the lack of an absolute reality.	All knowing is based on man's own construction of knowledge.	To realize one's oneness with the universe is to pass beyond knowledge.	Know cause of experience. Can never really know?	No purely objective knowledge, storyteller has power over others.
5. What is the meaning of human history?	Humans created good, but through Fall became defaced. Through work of Christ, God redeemed humanity and began process of restoration (may be rejected).	Has no value. Past history is not really important, except to reveal ethical principles.	A linear stream of events, with no significant importance. Shrouded in mystery.	The present state governs us. History is absurd.	History is a linear stream of events linked by cause and effect, but without purpose.	To realize one's oneness with the one is to pass beyond time. Time is unreal. History is cyclical.	Time is linear, yesterday is gone, here we are today, and tomorrow is on the way.	The past disappears in the present moment.
6. What happens to a person at death?	Death is either gate to life with God and his people or gate to eternal separation from God.	Whatever is built into nature.	Death is extinction, matter is de-organized and personality no longer exists.	There is no purpose and directness.	Death is the ultimate state of absurdity.	Death is the end of individual existence.	Physical death is not the end of self/only fear of death is removed.	
7. How do we know what is right and wrong?	Ethics is transcendent and is based on the character of God as good (holy and loving).	All that is, is right. Past history is not really important, except to reveal ethical principles.	Values man made, related only to human beings. Any form of ethics originates in man's mind.	Can't really know good/evil.	Man must revolt against the objective world and create value himself.	Realizing one's oneness with the cosmos is to pass beyond good and evil; cosmos = perfect.	Depends on the consciousness. No value at all in the universe. Ethics impossible.	Ethics is a construct; social good whatever society takes to be. We create criterion for what is good.