

Culture Clash

Understanding the Influence of Culture for More Effective Evangelism

Apologetics and Worldviews

Handout 2

- Apologetics? -

- What is apologetics? **1 Peter 3:15**
- Why should we care?
- How do we make use of it?

- Worldviews (in a nutshell) -

What is a worldview?

world • view

1. The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.
2. A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.

A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.

James W. Sire – *The Universe Next Door*

- Why Does it Matter? -

Consider this: Everyone has a worldview. Their worldview *will* influence the content and context of what they create. You *will* be influenced by the content which you consume. The manner and degree to which you are influenced will depend on the following: how well you understand your own worldview and its foundations, your awareness of the messages being delivered within the content you are consuming, and your ability to evaluate it critically. - **Colossians 2:8**

*James Spiegel, professor of philosophy at Taylor University, writes that “every film offers a worldview, a set of beliefs and values for understanding how the world is and how it should be.” When watching a movie, we should be asking: What worldview is the movie communicating? Are there elements that are true? Are there elements that are false and destructive? If Christians do not learn to ask those questions, they may well absorb nonbiblical ideas without even being aware of it. T. S. Eliot once noted that the serious books we read do not influence us nearly as much as the books we read for fun (or the movies we watch for entertainment). Why? **Because when we are relaxing, our guard is down and we engage in the “suspension of disbelief” that allows us to enter imaginatively into the story. As a result, the assumptions of the author or screenwriter may go unnoticed and seep all the more deeply into our consciousness. When we “suspend disbelief,” we must take care not to suspend our critical faculties.***

Nancy Pearcey - *Saving Leonardo*

