

Culture Clash

Understanding the Influence of Culture for More Effective Evangelism

Modern Secularism - Fact/Value Dichotomy

Handout 6

- Fact/Value Split -

- **Empiricism**

- The doctrine that all knowledge is derived from the senses—what we see, hear, hold, weigh, and measure.
- The strict separation of facts from values is the key to unlocking the history of the modern Western mind.

VALUES Private, subjective, relative

FACTS Public, objective, universal

- “Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values.” — *Martin Luther King Jr.*
- Science yields facts but not “value judgments”; religion expresses values but cannot “speak of facts.” — *Albert Einstein*
- “Reason defines one kind of reality (what we know); faith defines another (what we don’t know).” — *Lisa Miller*, religion editor, Newsweek

- **Universal Truth**

- Because all things were created by a single divine mind, all truth forms a single, coherent, mutually consistent system. Truth is unified and universal.
- True wisdom consists in seeing every field of knowledge through the lens of God’s truth—government, economics, science, business, and the arts. When Christians speak of a worldview, they are simply using modern terminology to restate the Bible’s comprehensive claim.
- Christians intend to communicate life-giving, objective truths about the real world. But their statements are interpreted as attempts to impose personal preferences. For the secularist, then, Christians are not merely wrong or mistaken. They are violating the rules of the game in a democratic society.
- A worldview approach enables Christians to move beyond merely denouncing social ills such as abortion, which can sound harsh, angry, and judgmental. And it equips them to demonstrate positively that biblical wisdom leads to a just and humane society. Protests and placards are not enough. To be strategically effective in protecting human dignity, we need to get behind the slogans and uncover the secular worldviews that shape people’s thinking.

