



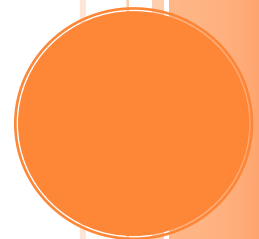
LIFE'S ULTIMATE QUESTIONS

...and what they say about how you think

The Joy of Homeschooling Together

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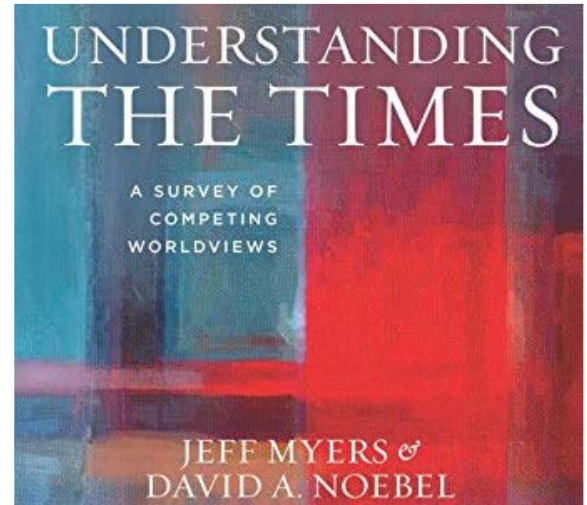
Life's Ultimate Questions

...and what they say about how you think

THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME!

Welcome!

I am Mrs. Powell, one of the teachers with the Apologia Online Academy. I was commissioned as a Colson Center Fellow in May, 2015 and I have the distinct privilege of being the tour guide for students in the study of worldviews. In partnership with Summit Ministries, one of the tools that we use is the textbook, *“Understanding the Times”* by Jeff Myers and David A. Noebel.



What's with all the worldview talk?

A worldview is the pattern of ideas, beliefs, convictions, and habits that help us make sense of God, the world, and our relationship to God and the world.

Isn't it that the same as Apologetics?

The simple answer is no. In apologetics, we are defending the Christian faith. We are giving an answer for why we believe what we believe. Whereas in the study of Worldviews we are studying patterns and ideas and how people (including Christians) make sense of the world.

GET TO THE POINT.



What about these “ultimate” questions?

- Where did we come from?
- What is wrong with the world?
- What is the solution?
- What is my part?

*Our answers to the
ultimate questions
determine our worldview*

The Six Dominant Worldviews

When we study worldviews, we bring them under the six dominant worldviews – **Christianity**, **Islam**, **Secularism**, **Marxism**, **Postmodernism**, and **New Spirituality**. Our answers to the ultimate questions determine our worldview. For example,

WORLDVIEW	Creation	Fall	Redemption	Restoration
Christian	Image bearers	Sinful nature	Jesus	Engage the culture
Secularism	Goo-Zoo-You	Everyone is “good”	Self-actualize*	YOLO
Marxism	Goo-Zoo-You	Economic inequality is what ails us	Revolution	Communism

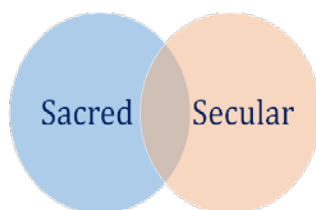
*Abraham Maslow’s theory of **self-actualization**

The Battle of Ideas

You’ve never seen, touched or smelled an idea, but you’ve had plenty of them.

What are *ideas* and how do they influence us? An idea is “a thought or suggestion as to a possible course of action.”

What we think and believe, along with our general impressions about the world, are always based on *something*. If they are not based on an accurate understanding of truth, we’ll always be disoriented, unable to distinguish between genuine clues and background noise.



We are to consider everything through a godly perspective and we are to do **all things** to the glory of God. If we cannot do something to the glory of God, then we should not do it. Life should not be categorized into secular and sacred categories. To the Christian, all aspects of life should be considered sacred. Colossians 3:17 and Philippians 4:8 reveal that.

WHATEVER
TRUE NOBLE
RIGHT PURE
LOVELY ADMIRABLE
EXCELLENT
PRAISEWORTHY
THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS
PHILIPPIANS 4:8

And whatever you do
in word or deed,
do all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the
Father through Him.
Colossians 3:17

What's Going On in the Culture

...and how do our answers to these questions help us speak life into it?

The breakdown of the family is the new “normal,” even within the homeschool community, there are no “safe spaces.” (*This is a tenant of Marxism.*)

LGBTQ is redefining our identity. There is no greater (and obvious) absolute truth than our gender. That is under attack. (*Postmodernism – identity politics*)



*When this began,
I had nothing to say and
I'd get lost in the nothingness inside of
me (I was confused)
And I let it all out to find that I'm
Not the only person with these things in
mind (inside of me)
But all the vacancy the words revealed
Is the only real thing that I got left to
feel. (nothing to lose)
Just stuck, hollow and alone
And the fault is my own,
And the fault is my own... (Linkin Park)*

Despair – recently the lead singer (Chester Bennington) of *Linkin Park* committed suicide, one of his songs “*Somewhere I Belong*” has some very insightful lyrics:

*I want to heal, I want to feel like I'm close to something real
I want to find something I've wanted all along
Somewhere I belong... (identity – Q1 & Q4)*

Reminds me of a quote from Anne of Green Gables where Anne asks Marilla,
“*Can't you even imagine you're in the depths of despair?*” Marilla responds, “*No I cannot. To despair is to turn your back on God.*”
(Q 2 & Q3)

A Seat at the Table

According to Nancy Pearcey, author of *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*:

Understanding, the basic needs of each worldview can be understood and the Christian can demonstrate how a Christian worldview is the only worldview that can satisfy all the deepest needs that other worldviews attempt to satisfy.

Another step is to begin teaching Christianity as more than an emotional experience, but also as **an intellectual faith**.



Worldview is really about YOU!

Our lives are **shaped by the God we worship**

Genuine worldview thinking is not a mental strategy, learning how to “spin” things; at the core, it is a **deepening of our spiritual character** and the character of our lives.



STAND

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt of truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the **gospel of peace**. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the **helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ **praying at all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth **boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel**, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Image Bearers (Q1)

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” ~ Genesis 1:27 (KJV)

Fallen Nature (Q2)

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” ~ Romans 5:12

Redemption (Q3)

“...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” ~ Romans 10:9

Restoration (Q4) – Welcome to Exile!

*“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **Build houses** and live in them; **plant gardens** and eat their produce. **Take wives and have sons and daughters**; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; **multiply there, and do not decrease**. But **seek the welfare of the city** where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for **in its welfare you will find your welfare**. ~ Jeremiah 29:4-7*

God Set Eternity in the Heart of Man

“He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart...” ~ Ecclesiastes 3:11a

