

TRUE FOR YOU, BUT NOT FOR ME!

How to start conversations about faith in an age
of relativism



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- Worldview
- Postmodernism & Truth
- Having better conversations using questions

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WHAT IS WORLDVIEW?

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What is a Worldview?

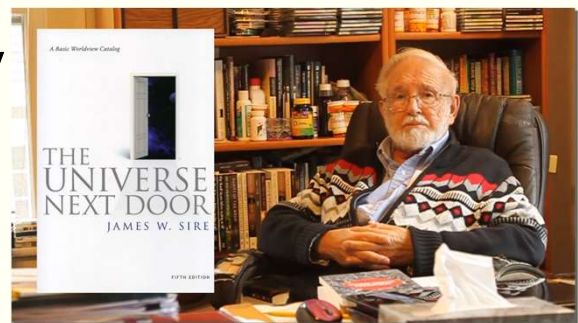
- Something we 'look through' but don't often stop to 'look at'.
- Unless we look at our different worldviews then we will only be talking across each other rather than truly connecting.
- The Christian story has implications for every area of life and society.



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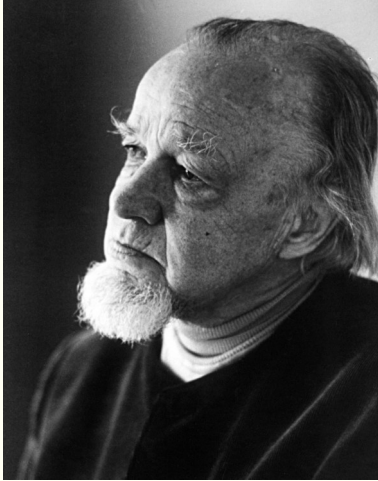
What is a Worldview?

“A worldview is a collection of attitudes, values, stories and expectations about the world around us, which inform our every thought and action. Worldview is expressed in ethics, religion, philosophy, scientific beliefs and so on” - James Sire



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What is a Worldview?



“The grid through which we see the world”

- Francis Schaeffer

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What is a Worldview?

It forms the window through which we see the answers to life's fundamental questions:

- Where does the world come from?
- What is the purpose of life?
- What is right and wrong?
- What happens after death?

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What is a Worldview?

Why it matters?

- Our worldview is significant because how we think determines how we act and behave in this life.

Ideas have consequences!

- Nazi Germany
- Apartheid South Africa

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POSTMODERNISM: THE 2 STORY VIEW OF TRUTH

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Postmodernism – The Dualism Problem

Upper Story

Nonrational, noncognitive



Lower Story

Rational, verifiable

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Postmodernism – The Dualism Problem

Values

Individual choice

Upper Story



Facts

Binding on everyone

Lower Story

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Postmodernism – The Dualism Problem

Private Sphere

Personal preference



Upper Story

Public Sphere

Scientific knowledge

Lower Story

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Postmodernism – The Dualism Problem

Postmodernism

Subjective, relative to particular group



Upper Story

Modernism

Objective, universally valid

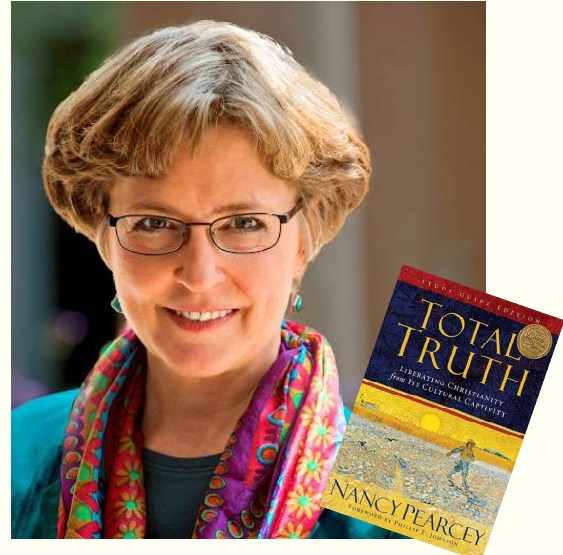
Lower Story

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Postmodernism

“The reason it is so important for us to recognise this division is that it is the single most potent weapon for delegitimizing the Biblical perspective in the public square today.”

- Nancy Pearcey



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Postmodernism

- Is sceptical of truth claims
- Summed up in phrases like:
 - “That’s true for you, but not for me”.
 - “That’s’ just your truth”
 - “Truth is relative”
- Fear of others wielding Truth as a *weapon*
- So, have retreated into truth just being a *personal thing*

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HAVING BETTER CONVERSATIONS

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Having Better Conversations: The Power of Questions

Why don't we share our faith more?

- Relativism
- Hyper sensitivity
- Disagreement is seen as an attack
- It seems like people just don't care - Apathy

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Having Better Conversations: The Power of Questions

Jesus himself was confronted with pressures just as we are today!

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Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”



Matthew 22:15-22

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But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Matthew 22:15-22

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Having Better Conversations: The Power of Questions

3 Good Questions:

What do you mean by that?

Why do you think that?

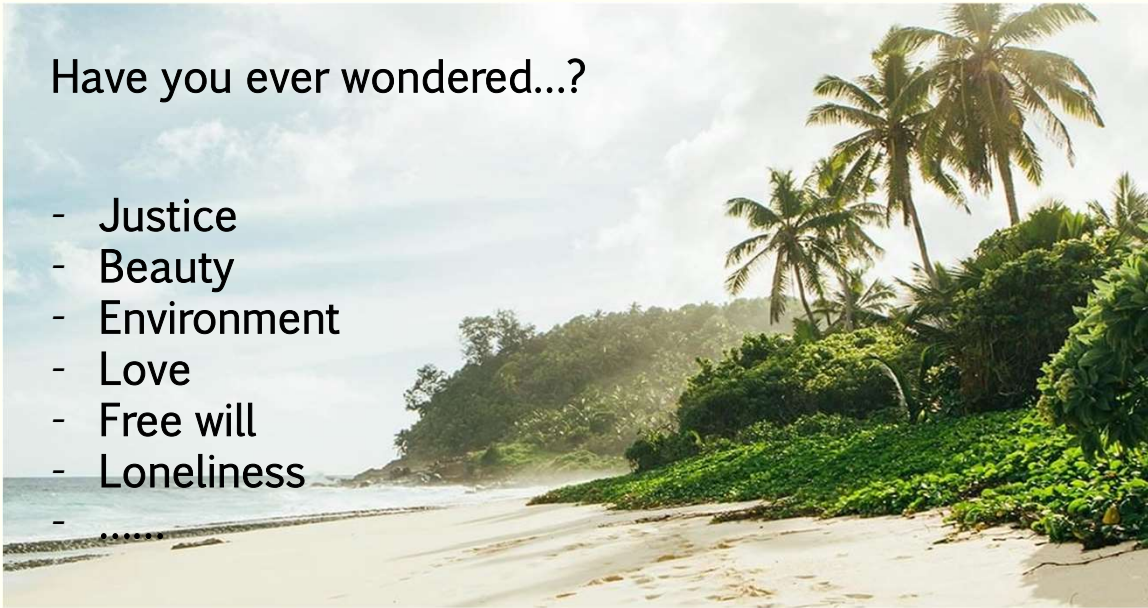
Have you ever wondered...?



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Have you ever wondered...?

- Justice
- Beauty
- Environment
- Love
- Free will
- Loneliness



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“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

- C.S. Lewis

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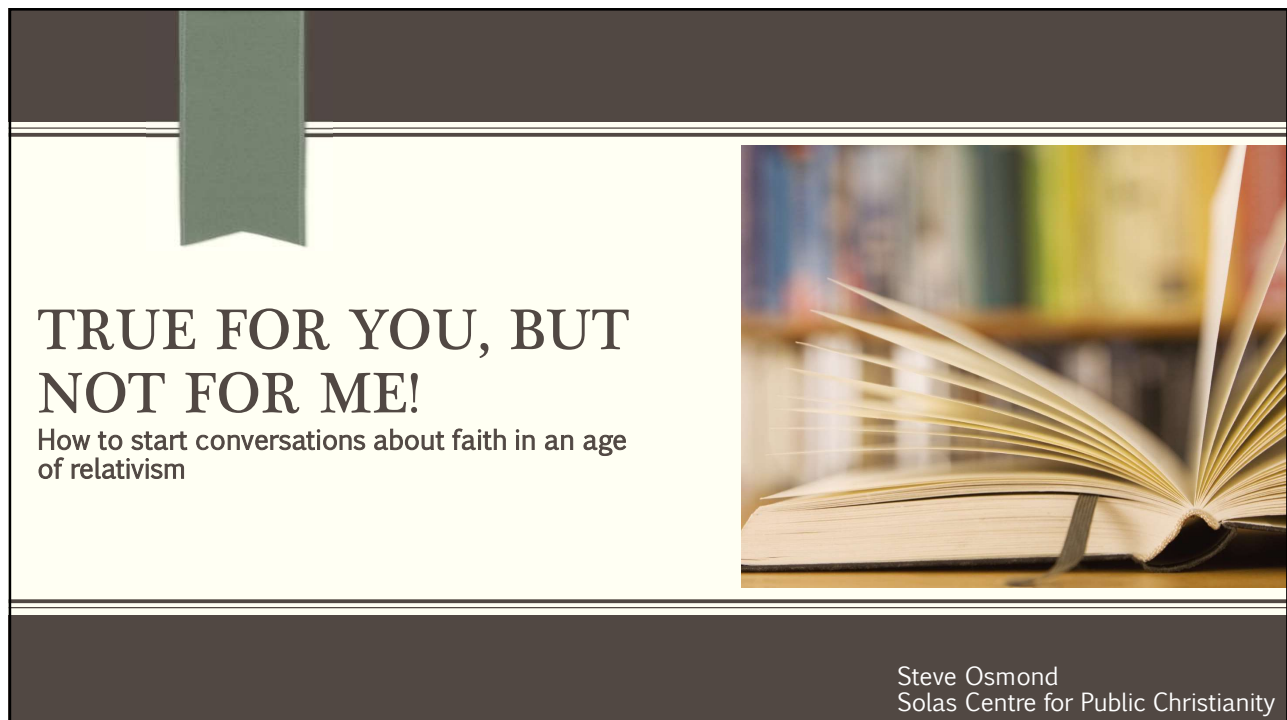
“For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes** are clearly seen, being understood **by the things that have been made**, even His eternal power ...”

The Bible, Romans 1

“**His purpose** was for the nations to **seek after God** and perhaps feel their way toward Him and **find Him** – though he is not far from any one of us.”

The Bible, Acts 17

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