

## Examining and Evaluating Worldviews

### A. Theism

1. One infinite \_\_\_\_\_ God
2. He exists *beyond* (*transcendent* - above and over creation or “up” and “out” there) and *in* (*immanent* - presence within creation)
3. He is *in* the world but not *of* the world (distinct from the world just as an artist is distinct from his painting)
4. Possesses all the \_\_\_\_\_-predicates
5. Miracles \_\_\_\_\_
6. The world is analogous to \_\_\_\_\_ (being, language)
7. Represented in \_\_\_\_\_, Islam and \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. Atheism

1. No God exists in or \_\_\_\_\_ the universe
2. No miracles (secular humanism)
3. Injustice and evil are \_\_\_\_\_
4. Many movements: Death of God (Al Kaiser); Death of God-talk; Myth of God (Nietzsche); Classical atheism (Freud, Ayn Rand)

#### Problems:

1. No first \_\_\_\_\_
2. No \_\_\_\_\_ basis for morality
3. Evolution is untenable. Ask \_\_\_\_\_ crucial questions:
  - a. Order from non-order (simple to more complex)?
  - b. Life from non-life?
  - c. Intelligence from non-intelligence?
  - d. Something from nothing (causality)?
  - e. Personal from the impersonal?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Complexity
5. “Chance” does not explain the origin of all things

### C. Deism

1. One God that exists beyond (transcendent) the universe but *not* \_\_\_\_\_ in it
2. \_\_\_\_\_ universe and natural theology
3. Like theism but no \_\_\_\_\_
4. Denies the incarnation, virgin birth, divine inspiration, etc..
5. Jefferson and \_\_\_\_\_

#### Problems:

1. Inconsistent view of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Confuse the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Laws of Nature (descriptive vs. prescriptive)
3. Ignores the abundant evidence of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible

#### D. Pantheism

1. God (impersonal) *is* the \_\_\_\_\_
2. All is *one* \_\_\_\_\_ (monism)(Parmenides)
3. No distinction between creator and \_\_\_\_\_
4. No miracles
5. \_\_\_\_\_ view of deism
6. Eastern philosophy and religion

#### Problems:

1. Self-\_\_\_\_\_ (change vs. non-change)
2. Fails the practical test
3. Where did the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ come from?
4. If the world is God, how do they explain the 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics?
5. To deny \_\_\_\_\_ is self-defeating

#### E. Polytheism

1. Many personal finite Gods \_\_\_\_\_ the universe and in it
2. They have a \_\_\_\_\_ but no end
3. Pantheism and \_\_\_\_\_ are only two worldviews which are compatible with each other
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is eternal
5. Usually named after \_\_\_\_\_ phenomena and human traits
6. Romans, Greeks, Witches, and Mormons

#### Problems

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is not eternal (2<sup>nd</sup> Law; Expanding universe)
2. Some say the gods were \_\_\_\_\_ by the forces of nature. If so, nature is ultimate, not the gods
3. To render \_\_\_\_\_ worship to what is less than ultimate is idolatry
4. Philosophically, there can be only *one* \_\_\_\_\_ God

#### F. Panentheism (dipolar theism, processism, organicism, neo-classical theism)

1. This worldview is a \_\_\_\_\_ of theism and pantheism
2. A personal God that has two \_\_\_\_\_: an *infinite pole* (Spirit beyond the physical universe and a *finite pole* (God's body) which is the universe.
3. God is *in* the \_\_\_\_\_ as soul is *in* the body
4. God and the universe are \_\_\_\_\_
5. God grows, learns, and \_\_\_\_\_ with history
6. Evil is seen as an \_\_\_\_\_ within the universe

7. Major figures are A.N. Whitehead, Charles Hartshorne, Shubert Ogden, John Cobb and Lewis Ford

**Problems:**

1. God cannot be both *infinite* and \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time and in the same sense (what about the incarnation of Christ?)
2. God cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ since He is a necessary being, or else we must find what God is dependent upon (this is God)
3. God cannot guarantee final \_\_\_\_\_ over evil
4. God cannot change or else he is finite (Mal 3:6)

**G. Finite godism**

1. A finite god that is \_\_\_\_\_ beyond and in the universe but is limited in power
2. Evil is \_\_\_\_\_
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is eternal
4. Plato

**Problems:**

1. God cannot \_\_\_\_\_ final victory over evil
2. If god is finite, how did they come to \_\_\_\_\_. No apparent cause which is impossible, or if by the forces of nature, then nature is god
3. The cause of the finite world must be \_\_\_\_\_, otherwise it too would be part of the finite world. The creator of time cannot be in time.