

Tools for Worldview Analysis

Source Analysis

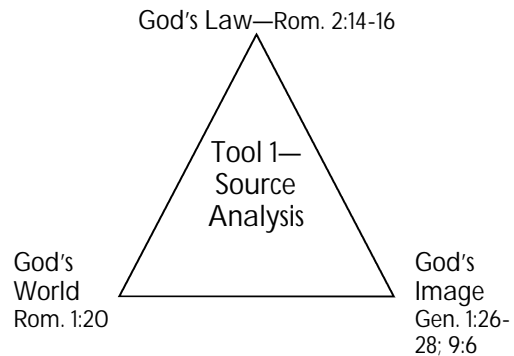
Where do worldviews come from?

Reference—Paul's Worldview approach in Athens (Acts 17)

- There will be points of contact in different worldviews
- There will be divergence in different worldviews
- Helps understand the imbalance in most worldviews
- Explains the persistence of worldviews across time and culture
- Behind every worldview is the search for the Creator, the One true God.

Paradoxes—(of a created yet fallen world)

- God is revealed everywhere and in everything...but he still remains hidden apart from the gospel.
- Every non-Christian worldview is a search for God and rebellion against him at the same time.



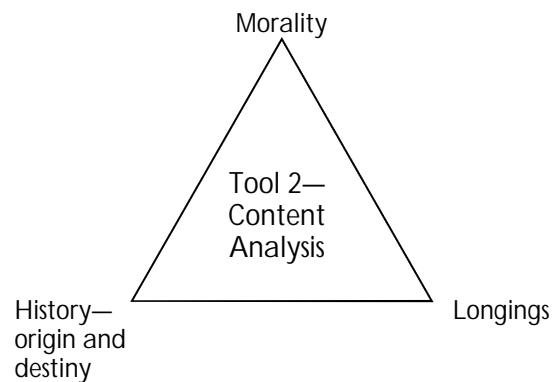
Content Analysis

What does this worldview say to the core questions of our existence? How does this worldview address our quest for meaning in life. Every worldview needs to address the *Is* questions...

- What Ought to Be
- What was, Is and will be
- What we want to be

Longings—yes, another triangle...

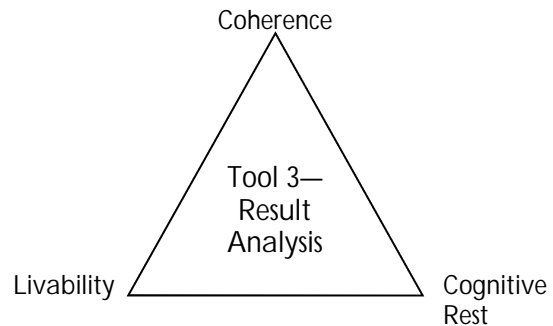
- 1) Relationship
- 2) Purpose
- 3) Good—(the problem of evil)



Result Analysis

This level of analysis moves beyond the question "What does it say?" to "Does it work?" What are the consequences of holding to a particular worldviews belief system?

1. Coherence – Test of reason—Is it consistent?
2. Livability – Test of practice-Can I live it?
3. Cognitive Rest – Test of satisfaction-Does it provide emotional contentment?



Perspective for a Worldview Approach

A. Definitions

- The comprehensive framework of one's basic beliefs about things (Wolters)
- The lenses through which we experience and understand life.
- A basic framework of beliefs that shape how a person sees the world.
- A worldview is the set of beliefs about fundamental aspects of reality that ground and influence all one's perceiving, thinking, knowing, and doing.
- A set of presuppositions or assumptions we hold about the basic make-up of our world (Sire)

Helpful Quotes

The term worldview may sound abstract or philosophical, a topic discussed by pipe-smoking, tweed jacketed professors in academic settings. But actually a person's worldview is intensely practical. It is simply the sum total of our beliefs about the world, the "big picture" that directs our daily decisions and actions. —Chuck Colson, *How Now Shall We Live?*

Our worldview determines our values. It helps us interpret the world around us. It sorts out what is important from what is not, what is of highest value from what is least. A worldview, then, provides a model of the world which guides its adherents in the world. —Walsh & Middleton, *The Transforming Vision*

Examples

Religions – Christianity, Judaism, Animism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism

Philosophies – Existentialism, Naturalism/Materialism, Postmodernism

Ideologies – Marxism, Capitalism

B. Similes and Examples

- Worldviews are like gall bladders – *Everyone's got one deep down in there somewhere and we don't often think about it until something goes wrong with it.*
- Worldviews are like the earth's mantle – *they're underneath everything if you dig deep enough.*
- Examples:

C. Purpose & Presuppositions

- Purpose—
- Presuppositions —

D. Reasons

- developing a Christian worldview (discipleship, Rom. 12:1-2).
- critique & comparative analysis (apologetic/evangelistic)
- build uniquely Christian approaches on life's core issues (missional)

E. Challenges

- The elephant
- The invisible line
- The flaming sword