

Bahnsen's Basic Training for defending the faith

Part 2: Introduction to worldviews

Amazonlink:

http://cshayden.blogspot.com/2005/12/bahnsens-basic-training-for-defending_23.html

What I expect to learn:

- An introduction to worldviews
- How could I defend my faith by knowing the worldviews

Quote:

“The Christian has counterparts for every metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical presuppositions of the unbeliever. In short, we believe in creation, the fall, redemption, and final consummation. These things have definite implications in every area. God is the Creator, and this is His universe. Thus, His Word teaches us about metaphysics. We have sinned and are fallen creatures before Him. We can become renewed in our godly image and apprehend true knowledge, so our faith has definite implications in epistemology.”

Book Review:

Dr. Bahnsen defines worldview as a network of presuppositions which are not tested by natural science and in terms of which all experience is related and interpreted. These presuppositions are very fundamental and logically basic assumptions. They are preconditions for thinking and provide a basis by which to determine what problems are important and to evaluate solutions for solving them. Not everyone realizes that worldviews are inescapable; some will deny that they possess a worldview. Our goal must be to force them to think consistently in terms of their worldview.

A worldview is a packaged deal. We as Christians are committed to Christ in our thoughts and actions. Dr. Bahnsen makes the important point that if we commit ourselves to Christ at any point, we must yield to Him in everything. To deny His Lordship in one area is to surrender His sovereignty over everything. We cannot serve two masters, so we must make Christ preeminent in every area; we must have a distinctively Christian way of looking all areas. Dr. Bahnsen clearly rejects religious pluralism and syncretism as he concludes that Christianity is not just one idea among many that can be integrated with other belief systems; its claims are

exclusive and singular, and we must accept or reject the system as a whole. We cannot pick those areas in which we wish to exalt Christ as Supreme.

Dr. Bahnsen presented three categories of questions that every worldview must answer. First is metaphysics, study of origin, structure, and nature of equality. Second is epistemology, the theory of knowledge, this deal with the nature and limits of knowledge as well as methods used to pursue knowledge, It asks how one justifies and accounts for knowledge and explores concepts such as truth and beliefs. Third is ethics, the study of good and bad, right and wrong, It deals with attitudes and actions, moral responsibility and obligations.

What I have learned:

- The definition of a worldview
- Three categories of questions that every worldview must answer
- Four basic worldview options

Integrative Question:

1. What is worldview?
2. What is monism?
3. What is dualism?
4. What is atomism?
5. What is pragmatism?