

# Bahnsen's Basic Training for defending the faith

## Part 3: Worldviews in conflict

### Amazonlink:

[http://cshayden.blogspot.com/2005/12/bahnsens-basic-training-for-defending\\_30.html](http://cshayden.blogspot.com/2005/12/bahnsens-basic-training-for-defending_30.html)

### What I expect to learn:

- How do worldviews come into conflict with one another
- How to defend the faith with these worldviews in conflict

### Quote:

“God has made Himself clear and given us plenty of evidence. He pours His wrath and judgment upon unbelieving cultures and also reveals Himself in creation. The problem is not with Him but with our sin and unbelief. Unbelievers rationalize God away and try to justify their unbelief. They invent ideas and worldviews that say it is impossible for finite minds to interact with an infinite God. They make excuses for their sin and declare themselves righteous. They suppress the truth and then say there is no truth to be found. Make no mistake: God did not fail to get His point across. The problem is sin and unbelief, not lack of evidence.”

### Book Review:

Dr. Bahnsen extends this training about worldviews beyond simply diagnosing the various philosophies we will encounter. He discusses the antithesis between Christians and unbelievers, sharing insight on how this plays out in our ideas and actions.

We must understand the concept of antithesis as we confront hostile and rival claims against our faith. As Christians, we have an irresolvable conflict between our faith and various other outlooks on reality, knowledge, and ethics. Starting at the fall of Adam and Eve and continuing to the present, God has ordained an antithesis between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent – between our world and life view and theirs.

Although unbelievers and believers are often inconsistent in terms of their own worldviews, our thoughts should lead us in completely divergent directions. Sometimes we say similar things and act in similar ways as unbelievers, even when these thoughts and actions are consistent with Christianity. Unbelievers can make truthful statements and perform seemingly good actions.

Dr. Bahnsen concludes that our key to defending the faith is to demonstrate the vanity, unreasonableness, and inherent contradictions in other worldviews. He says we do not all need to totally devote our lives to studying philosophy, ideas, and worldviews. Christians must be equipped to think like Christians and defend the faith against all rival claims. We must recognize the antithesis between God's people and humanists. We must understand that Christians and unbelievers, in principle, have nothing in common. Any truth or righteousness that they profess is borrowed from us and does not square with their professed presuppositions.

**What I have learned:**

- That Christians must be equipped to think like Christians and defend the faith against all rival claims.
- That the problem is sin and unbelief, not lack of evidence

**Integrative Question:**

1. What must we do when confronting hostile and rival claims against our faith?
2. What should be our objective?
3. Why do unbelievers sometimes borrow from our worldview?
4. Is lack of evidence the problem? Why or why not?
5. What is the key for defending the faith?