**Week 11 Aren't All Religions the Same?**

* For many years, we have thought that the threat of cults and other religions were the real enemy of Christianity.  But are they?

Three Aspects of Views and Beliefs Outside of Orthodox Christianity.

* Worldviews, Cults, and False Religions.
* Romans 1:21-22

What is a Worldview? A worldview attempts to answer these questions:

* Who, what, or is there a God? Who am I and how do I operate in my world? How can I tell right from wrong? When it's all over, where do I go? How can I know the truth? How can I be sure I know anything? What does my life mean? How do I fit into history, if at all? Source: *So What's the Difference*by Fritz Ridenour

What is a Biblical Worldview?

General Definition: A Christian Worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do. (Source: https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/whats-a-christian-worldview/)

* Absolute moral truths exist.
* Absolute truth is defined by the Bible.
* Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, was crucified, died, and was resurrected.
* God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and He still rules it today.
* Salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned.
* Faith in Christ is the only way to salvation and eternal life.
* Satan is real.
* Christians have a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people.
* The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.

Major Worldviews (source: *American Worldview Inventory 2021-2022* by George Barna)

* Biblical Worldview
* Secular Humanism
* Postmodernism
* Eastern Mysticism
* Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
* Marxism
* Nihilism
* Syncretisim

The predominant worldview in America. "...an impure unrecognizable worldview that is nothing more than a customized personal blend of disparate ideas adopted from multiple philosophies of life."\* This worldview has developed due to many cultural influences: technology (smart phones, social media, internet, etc..) media, entertainment, sports industry, indoctrination in education, sexual orientation revolution, and loss of biblical influences.

* + “Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.” C.S. Lewis
  + “Education is a weapon whose effects depend on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed.” Joseph Stalin
  + “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it is better for him if a heavy millstone is hung around his neck and he is thrown into the sea.” Mark 9:42

How Does a Cult Differ From a Christian Worldview?

* New interpretations of Scripture.
* Non-biblical source of authority.
* Another Jesus.
* Rejection of orthodox Christianity.
* Double-Talk (externally vs. internally)
* Non-biblical teaching on the nature of God (especially the Trinity.)
* Changing theology.
* Strong leadership.
* False prophecy.
* Examples of Cults
  + Mormonism
  + Jehovah Witnesses
  + Christian Scientists
  + Seventh Day Adventists
  + Unity School of Christianity

Can You See the False Worldview and False Religious Views in This Passage?

* "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these. For among them are those who slip into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Timothy 3:1-7

Resources:

* *Christianity Cults & Religions* by Rose Publishing (also a Pamphlet by same name).
* *So What’s the Difference* by Fritz Ridenour (in KBC Bookstore)
* *Worlds Religions and Cults* by Bodie Hodge & Roger Patterson (3 Volumes)
* *What’s Your Worldview?* By James N. Anderson