

Chapter 3. A Christian Worldview for Nursing

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- Purpose: to determine the characteristics of a Christian worldview in nursing
- Objective
 - Define theology of nursing
 - Define truth according to biblical, modern and postmodern worldviews
 - Describe each concept of the nursing paradigm according to a biblical worldview (person, environment, health, nursing)
 - Describe the implications of your own worldview on your nursing practice

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Introduction

- Nursing history in Norway
- The response of Christians in 3rd century plague
- Beginning of nursing out of a Christian worldview
- Follow Jesus' command to reach out to the poor, sick and the marginalized



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Worldviews in Nursing Theories

- **Nursing theories** provide a conceptual framework for directing and organizing nursing practice.
- **Three worldviews** underlying current nursing theories are modern Western, postmodern, and revived pagan.
- **General Systems Theory (GSTs)**
- **Holism**
 - Comprehensive approach
 - A philosophy that makes no distinction between the whole and the parts

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Betty Neuman's health systems model

- **God:** source of human spirit
- **Environment:** external forces
 - **Stressors:** disrupt the system stability
- **Person:** client system, basic structure (survival factors, individual characteristics), boundary lines (defense)
- **Health:** a continuum of wellness to illness
- **Nursing:** a unique profession concerned with all variables affecting clients. Three prevention as nursing interventions



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Orem's self care deficit theory

- **God:** no identification
- **Environment:** physical, chemical, biological, and social
- **Person:** a unity of structures and functions that actively maintains that actively maintain self care and dependent care agency for well-being
- **Health:** a state of being structurally, functionally, psychologically, biologically, and socially whole
- **Nursing:** assist patient to develop self-care agency



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Leininger: culture care theory

- **God:** defined by the culture
- **Environment:** (all influences) technology, history, kinship, values and traditions etc.
- **Person:** individuals, families, communities as defined by the culture
- **Health:** well-being; culturally defined
- **Nursing:** assisting, or anticipating needs to maintain well-being, or face death.



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Roy's adaptation model

- **God:** intimately revealed in the diversity of creation and is the common destiny of creation
- **Environment:** all conditions affecting the development of person; 3 stimuli; focal, contextual, residual
- **Person:** a whole made of parts
- **Health:** a state and process of being integrated and whole.
- **Nursing:** helping persons to adapt changes (promote adaptation contributing to health)



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Roger's Unitary Human Beings

- **God**: not identified as a distinct beings.
- **Environment**: an irreducible, pan dimensional, infinite energy field
- **Person**: the unitary human being (human field)
- **Health**: passive health symbolizes wellness and absence of disease. Positive health is rhythmic consistency.
- **Nursing**: science and art; promotes symphonic interaction between environment and man.
- ("energy field". "causality is invalid")



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Watson's Science of Caring

- Philosophy and science of caring -

- **God**: the sacred unconsciousness, the universal mind, a deeper higher energy source
- **Environment**: the universe is alive, conscious, intelligent and compassionate
- **Person**: mind-body-spirit oneness; person-nature-universe as oneness. Transpersonal, transcendent
- **Health**: consciousness, human-environmental energy field
- **Nursing**: Caritas (Love) process



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Parse's Human Becoming Theory

- **God:** no clearly defined – “the universe”
- **Environment:** the universe; a pattern and organization of energy
- **Person:** coexisting; an open-being; a living unity; transcending multi-dimensionally with the possibles
- **Health:** a synthesis of values, a way of living, a process of being and becoming
- **Nursing:** directed toward illuminating and mobilizing family interrelationship in light of the meaning given to health



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Criticism nursing theories from Biblical Views

- **Systems model, self care deficit, and adaptation model** were influenced by General systems theory and comprehensive sense of holism; yet these concepts reflect strong influence of biblical views.
- **Philosophical holism** means all things are interconnected; energy therapy, guided imagery, different forms of spiritism
- **Postmodernism** influenced Unitary human beings, philosophy and science of caring, human becoming theory, culture care theory

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Criticism nursing theories from biblical views (c.)

- **Rogers**: concept of God as energy field; no boundaries from the microcosm to the macrocosm
- **Watson's science of caring**: revived paganism despite language reflecting Christian influence; universal mind, spirit, sacred unconscious

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Criticism nursing theories from biblical views (c.)

- **Parse's Human Becoming Theory**: influenced by existentialism; human becoming is human-centered -> eliminate the needs for God.
- **Leininger's culture care theory**: truth as defined by culture

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Nursing from a Christian worldview

- Theology of nursing rooted in belief of sovereign God.
- Obedience to God, a response to His grace and a reflection of His character
- Action is communicating the good news of salvation, health and healing through word and deed

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Nursing from a Christian worldview

- Affirms **good empirical science** and **use of technology**
- Affirms the concerns and goals of the new paradigm; **personal approach** to health care, **holistic views** of human suffering
- Includes the **reality of the spiritual and unseen** and **faith and prayer**.
- Rejects the scientism that reduces all reality to physical or material phenomena.

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Christian Nursing Uniqueness

- Caring for the whole person
- Respecting each person as created in the image of God
- Science and art
- Response to God's grace and a reflection of his character
- Sovereign God

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Biblical view of God

- Exclusiveness: sovereign God
- Inclusiveness: salvation for all
- God the creator
- A loving Heavenly Father
- God in human form
- Spirit of the Living God
- Modernism: God does not exist; uninvolved with creation
- Postmodernism: impersonal energy

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God the Creator

- We are totally dependent upon God, not my own flesh.
- We are to worship God in spirit and in truth, not treat Him as like a magic genie in *Lamp of Aladdin*

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A Loving Heavenly Father

- God has given me and still preserves my body and soul; God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing good and drink. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. God does all this out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true

(Luther, 1996)

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God in human form

- God is almighty God himself who came to live among us as fully human.
- He shared our struggles, experienced pain, suffered and died so that we could be restored to full relationship with God, our heavenly father.

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Spirit of the Living God

- Holy Spirit
 - Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27)
 - On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you (John 14:20)
- It is not an energy field we can transmit.

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Spirit of the Living God (cont.)

- Gifts from the Holy Spirit;
 - Wisdom, knowledge, faith, service, giving aid, acts of mercy, healings, working miracles, teaching, prophecy, exhortation, discernment of spirits, and tongues
(1 Cor 12:8-10)
 - Service, teaching, encouragement, giving generously, leadership, showing mercy
(Romans 12:7-8)
- With these gifts we participate in the work of God's kingdom.

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Spirit of the Living God (cont.)

- Fruit of the Spirit; the character of God demonstrated in our lives
 - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23)
- Started from awareness of our inadequacy and sinfulness
- Sin and redemption

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The Seen and the Unseen

- Spiritual beings: personal, intelligent beings, and intentions toward us
 - Angels: God's servants under his authority
 - Evil spirits, demons: created by God but rebelled against Him
- Jesus Christ protects us from evil spirits but they constantly tempts us.

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Christian worldview for nursing

	Modern	Christian	Postmodern
God	Higher being, may or may not involve in human life.	Personal, triune (father, son, holy spirit) Creator of the universe The way, the truth, the way.	Impersonal energy Quantum physics gods, spirits, manipulated for human desires.
Environment	Physical matter controlled by science and technology Exploited for human gain.	All things, seen and unseen, distinct from God but under his nurture and control, created good but polluted by sin, redeemed and to be re-created by God.	May be viewed as god(s), energy with no distinctions, spiritual and/or conscious. Physical matter may be considered illusion. Nature worshiped.
Person	Autonomous, body-soul dualism, biochemical processes, genetically or socially determined.	Created in image of god, sinful, integrated being, relational, responsible and accountable.	Human energy field, related by collective unconscious, not distinct from the environment. Transpersonal body. Illusory, divine spark within.

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Christian worldview for nursing

	Modern	Christian	Postmodern
Health	Absence of disease; aging and death; Diseases to be cured.	Shalom- God-centered community characterized by peace, prosperity, rest, security, justice, happiness, health, welfare and wholeness.	Expanded consciousness, balanced energy, wholeness, self-actualization, harmony with nature.
Nursing	Conquering illness through technology and scientifically determined care (scientific model)	A ministry of compassionate care for the whole person in response to God's grace, which aims to foster optimum health (shalom) and bring comfort in suffering and death.	Holistic: 'transpersonal caring' primarily in the mind, moves away from caring for the body. Manipulation of energy. May include ritual and contacting spirits.