

Worldview Response Paper

Valentine Sanon

Alliance University

NUR 301

Prof. Dr. Elenice Lima

Christianity and Naturalism

Introduction

Knowing about different worldviews is an essential component to understand the complexities of human thoughts and actions. Someone's worldview may impact his perception of reality and his belief. The Christian worldview and the naturalist worldview have different beliefs and perspective on the existence of a divine power and on the natural occurrence of things. While the Christian worldview is founded on the belief that God is the ultimate reality and source of all things, the naturalist worldview is grounded on the idea that everything can be explained by natural causes and science principles. This assignment will primarily define the Christian and the naturalist worldviews, then will clearly demonstrate the worldview concepts of naturalism, and lastly, will compare and contrast the naturalist worldview with the Bible.

Definition of the Christian Worldview & the Naturalist Worldview

A worldview is a collection of attitudes, values, stories and expectations about the world around us, which inform our every thought and action (Gray, A. J., 2011). The Christian worldview is established on the belief that God created human, the world and everything that is in it with a purpose. In other words, a Christian worldview helps to understand and interpret the world based on the principles of Christianity. Conversely, the concept of Naturalist worldview is that everything that exists can be explained by natural causes or laws. The belief is that there is no supernatural power or divine power in control. As a result, science becomes the primary means of acquiring knowledge and can use as proof to explain the natural world.

Explanation of the Worldview Concepts

The concepts of naturalism can be explained based on its characteristics. First of all, naturalist worldview is founded on the belief that there is no God in control and that nature just evolves. In this worldview, science is the answer to understanding natural events and the reason behind certain phenomenon. According to naturalists, all life evolve through natural selection without the help of a divine power. It is defended by the theory of natural selection of the scientists Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace (*Theory of evolution*, 2022). Determinism is another characteristic of the naturalist worldview that shows the universe as a closed system that is constructed in accordance to deterministic laws, which confirms that everything that takes place in the universe is the product of prior causes. Moreover, humanism is another major element of the naturalist worldview. It is where naturalists tend to believe that human mind and science may be used as tools to solve problems and further improve the society we live in. Objectivity is also an important factor in the naturalist worldview since it involves evidence formed on systematic observation, experiments and measurement.

God in the Naturalist Worldview

In the naturalist worldview, the concept of god does not exist. It rejects the notion that God is in control of the universe and created human. In this type of worldview, there is no evidence to prove the existence of God or a god because the belief is that the universe is self-contained and self-explanatory based on scientific methods which is consider to be the way to understand reality.

A Person in the Naturalist Worldview

A human being is viewed as a result of evolutionary processes. A person does not have a soul that continues after death, on the contrary, he/she is a complete physical creature fully designed to be what they are supposed to be (Clark, A. T., 2023).

World & Environment in the Naturalist Worldview

The world is a product of natural processes and chance without a true purpose. The naturalists see the world and environment as a place that should be preserved for the benefit of human and other creatures. They also believe that the environment is governed by natural laws and that human are part of it.

Health or Wellbeing in the Naturalist Worldview

For naturalists, health and wellbeing come from our relationship with the natural world. Nature holds resources such as, food and water that can improve the wellbeing of human, and the conditions necessary to maintain good health such as, oxygen (air), and plants medicine. In other terms, a healthy environment will results in good health.

Comparison with Bible

A comparison between naturalist worldview and the Bible can be made by using the Christian worldview because the worldview of Christians is mainly founded on the world of God or on Bible scriptures. It is primarily characterized by the belief that God is the all-powerful and all-knowing creator of the universe. It is found in Genesis 1:1 (NIV) which says that “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” This verse emphasizes that God is the ultimate maker of all things. It clearly asserts that God is the author of everything. The universe did not just appear into existence through a natural process or through a scientific process but it

was created by God with a purpose. Another verse that strongly supports this statement is Colossians 1: 16 which says, “ For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. Per consequent, all things in the universe were created through Him, by Him, and for Him, included science.

Faith is also a component of the Christianity worldview because it is considered as an essential element to develop a meaningful relationship with God. It is written in Hebrews 11:6 NIV “ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” This verse demonstrates that faith is the key to developing a close and personal relationship with God. In order to have faith in God it is important to trust Him first. Therefore, trust can instill faith but without faith it is impossible to develop a Christian worldview.

Furthermore, Christians believe that human are created in the image of God. The Bible says, “ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” The verse affirms that human beings resemble God.

Love also has a tremendous significance for Christians. Not only in their relationship with God but also in their relationship with others. Based on Christian understanding of the bible, love is the foundation of all things. Romans 5:8 teaches us that God demonstrates His love by sacrificing His son Jesus on the cross to save humanity. This act of love was not only done to save us but also to teach us to love God and to love one another.

Christians view the Bible as the source of truth because it is inspired by God. In 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “ All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching , rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” This verse infers that the scriptures are inspired by God and are true .

Most importantly, in the Christian worldview, salvation comes through faith in Jesus-Christ who died on the cross. A Bible verse that supports this statement is found in John 14: 6, “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” This clearly implies that no one can get through God unless they believe that Jesus died on the cross to redeem their sins.

Conclusion

The naturalist worldview can significantly affect my clients health and decisions making in a positive and in a negative way. My clients may rely on factors that promote health such as; healthy diet, natural food, adequate sleep, natural remedies, and exercise to promote natural healing. On the other hand, the belief that the body can naturally heal itself can also put the patients at risk and have a significant impact on their health and wellbeing. The Christian worldview can also have a negative and a positive impact on my clients. Believing that God is the ultimate healer is a good Christian’s attitude and an act of faith. However, God gave us knowledge to use the resources He provided for us to take care of our health. The bible emphasizes on the fact that God’s people perish because of lack of knowledge. Therefore it is important to exploit the intelligence that God gave us. In conclusion Naturalists reject the notion of divine power or divine intervention while Christians accept and rely on the divine power of the almighty God.

References

- Clark, A. T. (n.d.). *Naturalism.org*. Worldview Naturalism | Naturalism.org. Retrieved April 24, 2023, from <https://www.naturalism.org/worldview-naturalism>
- Gray, A. J. (2011, August 1). *Worldviews*. International psychiatry : bulletin of the Board of International Affairs of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Retrieved April 24, 2023, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6735033/>
- Marketfaith.org. (n.d.). Retrieved April 24, 2023, from <http://www.marketfaith.org/what-is-naturalism/>
- Mortenson, D. T. (2017, May 5). *The religion of naturalism*. Answers in Genesis. Retrieved April 24, 2023, from <https://answersingenesis.org/world-religions/religion-of-naturalism/>
- Theory of evolution*. Education. (n.d.). Retrieved April 24, 2023, from <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/theory-evolution/>