

Naturalism versus Christianity

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In the 21st century, there are a number of worldviews that shape how an individual views themselves and the world around them, one of the most prominent ones is the naturalist perspective. The naturalist worldview is a philosophical perspective that focuses on the importance of the natural world and the natural processes within it, disregarding the supernatural or any sort of divine intervention. To a naturalist, everything in the universe can be explained through natural laws and causes, without a supernatural explanation. Because naturalists rely on empirical evidence and logical explanations, the worldview is closely tied to scientific inquiry in regards to understanding the natural world. Naturalists believe that studying nature and applying scientific knowledge will lead to a better understanding of the world and will ultimately solve many of the problems facing humanity today.

There are many different concepts that give the naturalist worldview its identity, one of the major ones is the dismissal of a God or a supernatural being as the sole creator of human existence. Naturalists believe that the natural world and its processes are completely self-sufficient and do not require any sort of divine intervention to work. In the naturalist worldview, religious beliefs and practices are seen as attempts to explain the unknown and provide comfort in the meaning of life. Naturalists view the individual as an incredibly important part of the natural world, shaped by the same processes that govern all living organisms. At the same time, they view the individual as having agency over their life, they are free to make rational decisions and should be held accountable for their actions. In terms of their view towards nurses and nursing care, they see them as having a valuable role in promoting health. They see them as agents of human progress because they actively work to better society through scientific knowledge and evidence based care. Nurses are appealing to naturalists because of their

compassionate and caring qualities they bring towards work, they are often held in high regard and highly appreciated by naturalists for the work they do.

The biblical worldview is a drastically different perspective from the naturalist worldview, as such the concepts are viewed in completely different ways. For example, people with the biblical perspective view God as the supreme being who created it and governs it through divine intervention. Christians also believe that God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, which means that he is present everywhere at all times and is all powerful. The individual has a very important role in the biblical worldview, they believe that everyone is created uniquely in the image of God with inherent dignity and worth. They also believe that each person has a unique purpose in God's plan, this may involve different roles and responsibilities, but everyone is still called to use their talents to glorify God and others. Regarding nurses and nursing care, Christians see them as integral caregivers with a valuable role in promoting health and healing. Many Christians view nursing as a calling and believe that nurses have a special responsibility to heal and care for those who are sick and vulnerable.

There are multiple bible verses that have key points about the individual and their worth, responsibility, and purpose. One of the earliest and most notable can be found in **Genesis 1:27**, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them ; male and female he created them". As stated previously, the individual in the biblical worldview has a distinct purpose of fulfilling God's purpose for them, everyone is created in the eyes of God with a specific purpose in this world. In the biblical worldview, the individual is irreplaceable.

Overall, naturalism and christianity are two distinct philosophies that offer different perspectives on the view of God, the individual, and nurses and nursing care as a whole. Despite this, it is important to treat each individual as respectfully as possible and take into consideration

what they believe in which will shape how they are treated as patients by us future registered nurses.

In terms of nursing care, it is important to approach the care of naturalists and Christians with immense respect for their beliefs and values. There are subtle differences in the ways we can care for both groups, but there is also an overall need for providing care that is culturally sensitive. The main point we as nurses must follow when caring for these patients is to be respectful of their beliefs and values. We need to take time to understand their personal beliefs and how they will relate to their healthcare. For example, naturalists may be completely fine with receiving vaccines because they value scientific research, however, a Christian may be opposed to it because it goes against their personal beliefs. Another way to give is to engage in active listening, this is where the nurse takes time to actively listen to their patient's concerns and needs. Lastly, we as nurses must communicate with the healthcare team about the patients and their spiritual needs. This is done in order to ensure that their cultural and spiritual needs are being met. Some ways the nurses can accomplish this is by consulting with a liaison, interpreter, or other providers knowledgeable about the patient's own beliefs.

In conclusion, while the naturalist and biblical worldview differ fundamentally on many different aspects, it is incredibly important to treat these patients with proper love and care as future nurses. In order to provide culturally sensitive care, we need to continue to learn about the spiritual beliefs of our patients and to seek guidance from colleagues and supervisors when we need to. Being able to provide culturally sensitive care requires constant self-reflection and education to broaden our understanding of different cultures and worldviews, if we are to be nurses that give patient centered care, then we also need to be sensitive towards different worldviews than our own.

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