

The Worldview of Christianity and Naturalism

Savanna Sebastian

NUR 301: World Perspectives: The Christian Nurse

Dr. Lima

April 28, 2023

There are many different worldviews that offer different perspectives on life and human nature. By exploring these worldviews, one can understand how these worldviews are able to shape our beliefs, values, and also affect our health and decision making. They help individuals understand the world around them. The worldview of Christianity and naturalism have similarities and differences in their perspective of the nature of existence, purpose of life, and the source of knowledge. These worldviews provide answers to primary questions, which help shape the views in which they believe. There are many scriptures in the bible that support their analysis. While Christianity is the belief in God and the bible as the ultimate authority, naturalism believes that the world can be explained through natural law and processes.

The worldview of Christianity is the belief that God is the creator and he has created each and every one of us, and has a purpose for each life created. The importance in this worldview is having faith and believing in God. Christians also believe in the concept of sin. Sin is the disobedience of God's laws and separates humans from God. They also believe in salvation. Salvation is the process of restoring the relationship with God through having faith in his son Jesus Christ.

The worldview of naturalism differs from Christianity because it focuses on the natural world and reality. It is grounded in the scientific method and believes in reason and evidence over faith. They believe that humans are biological organisms that have evolved through natural processes and there is no literal purpose to life.

The primary questions that can determine one's worldview would be questions regarding the origin of the worldview, the meaning behind it, the morality, and the purpose of it. For Christians the answers to the questions are rooted from the bible and the teaching of Jesus Christ,

whereas for naturalism, the answers for the questions would be rooted through scientific evidence and reasoning.

These worldviews can affect clients' health and decision making in many different ways and can have a huge impact on their life. In the article "Religious Affiliations Influence Health-Related and General Decision Making: A Brazilian Nationwide Survey", by Marcelo Borges, he states, "The mechanisms behind religious coping are not fully understood, but religion is a relevant aspect of an individual's cultural background, important not only in daily decisions but also health-related attitudes"

For Christians, they seek guidance through prayer and spiritual guidance. They may turn to the bible for direction and strength. In the journal "Spiritual and Religious Coping of Medical Decision Makers for Hospitalized Older Adult Patients" by Saneta M. Maiko, she states "The coping resources identified in this study may guide professional chaplains and other care providers to design a patient-based and outcome-oriented intervention to reduce surrogate stress, improve communication, increase patient and surrogate satisfaction, and increase surrogate integration in patient care". Naturalists on the other hand, may turn to medical treatment, science, and evidence based practice to help guide their decision. The Bible teaches that God created humans in his image (Genesis 1:27). God created us through his own image and in Matthew 6:26, tells us that God cares for his creation because God provided us with everything we need and there is no need for us to ever worry.

In conclusion, as nurses, our job is to make sure that our patients are the priority. Regardless of our worldview and personal beliefs, we must understand that many people have different backgrounds, faiths, and beliefs, and we must be accepting to all regardless of if we agree or not. As stated in "Strategies Christian Nurses Use to Create a Healing Environment" by

Jane Pfeiffer, she states “Thus, the caregiving science and artistry of nurses must help set patients at ease in this setting filled with many unknowns”. Our patients' health and safety is of most importance and it is our duty to make sure they receive the best possible care.

References

- Borges, M. (2021, March 11). *Religious affiliations influence health-related and General Decision making: A Brazilian nationwide survey*. International journal of environmental research and public health. Retrieved April 28, 2023, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8001914/>
- Maiko, S. M. (2019, April). *Spiritual and religious coping of medical decision makers for hospitalized older adult patients*. Journal of palliative medicine. Retrieved April 28, 2023, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7141557/>
- Pfeiffer, J. (2018, November 9). *Strategies Christian nurses use to create a healing environment*. MDPI. Retrieved April 28, 2023, from <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/9/11/352>