

In pantheism, the divine is an underlying spiritual unity, the One. What slips through the sieve, then, is diversity, difference, individuality. In Hinduism, your individual identity is actually called *maya*, which means illusion. It is regarded as the cause of evil, selfishness, greed, and war. The goal of meditation is to dissolve you of being a separate self by merging with the cosmic One, the undifferentiated. All, like a drop of water dissipating into the ocean. In Buddhism, the word *nirvana* means literally "to become extinguished."  
(Nancy Percy, *Finding Truth*)

## The Ultimate Reality

### One Key Question

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ Do \_\_\_\_\_ ...

About \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. . . . For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. . . . Were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, "What comes to your mind when you think about God?" we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man.  
(A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

All passages, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version of the Bible. You can download the free YouVersion Bible app that includes the NIV translation at your favorite app store.

January 14 & 15, 2023  
Michael Yearley

## Worldview

### *The Ultimate Reality*

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## The Stupid Years

## Worldview

### *Renewing Your Mind*

A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) that we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides a foundation on which we live and move and have our being. (James W. Sire, *The Universe Next Door*, 6th ed.)

A worldview is our big picture view of reality. It is based on our deepest assumptions about the most important questions of life.



## Worldview

### *Theism, Naturalism & Pantheism*

⇒ Theism

⇒ Naturalism (Materialism)

The Cosmos is all that is or was or ever will be.  
(Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*)

Naturalism has had great staying power. Born in the eighteenth century, it came of age in the nineteenth and grew to maturity in the twentieth. . . . It dominates universities, colleges, and high schools. . .no rival view has yet been able to topple it.  
(James W. Sire, *The Universe Next Door*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.)

⇒ Pantheism

## Worldview

### *Evaluating The Maps*

"You", your joys and sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules. . . . You're nothing but a pack of neurons.  
(Francis Crick)

That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system; and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the débris of a universe in ruins—all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built. (Bertrand Russell, *Free Man's Worship*)

Pantheism teaches that it is a mistake to draw any moral distinctions. Everything merges into the One. The end result, however, is that you cannot distinguish good from evil—which means you have no basis for fighting against evil.  
(Nancy Pearcy, *Finding Truth*)