

World Views

It seems that there are more philosophies and religions than any normal person could ever learn about. But all the world's philosophies and religions can be summarized into the following five categories

	REALITY	TRUTH	VALUES	MAN	PROBLEM
1 Naturalism (Atheism; Agnosticism; Existentialism Modernism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The material universe is all that really exists. There is no such thing as a soul or spirit. Everything can be explained on the basis of natural law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truth is typically understood as scientific proof. Only those things observed with the 5 senses are accepted as real or true. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no objective or absolute values. Social morals are subject to evolution and change. Thus, morals are individual preferences or socially useful behaviors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man is simply the chance product of a biological process of evolution. Man is material only. There is no spiritual nature at all. Humans may some day pass out of existence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position limits its understanding to what it can perceive from our 5 senses. Because of this, they deny anything that cannot be measured. But they cannot be consistent because there are things they acknowledge as existing, but cannot be explained using natural means. For example, "love", "reason", "order in the universe".
2 Post-Modernism (Christian Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reality is socially constructed. Therefore reality must be interpreted through our language and cultural "paradigm". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truths are mental constructs meaningful only to individuals within a particular cultural "paradigm". Truth is relative to one's culture and do not apply to other paradigms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Values come from our social paradigms. The only universal values include tolerance, freedom of expression, inclusion, and refusal to claim to have the answers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man is a product of his social setting. He is not autonomous and free. This is a myth. He is only a node in a cultural reality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They tend to be "absolutely" intolerant toward those who believe in absolutes.
3 Pantheism (Hinduism; Taoism; Buddhism; New Age)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only the spiritual dimension exists. All else is an illusion (maya). Spiritual reality (Brahman) is eternal, impersonal, and unknowable. Everything is a part of God, and God is in everything and everyone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truth is an experience of unity with "the oneness" of the universe. Truth is beyond rational description. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no real distinction good and evil because ultimate reality is impersonal. "Unenlightened" behavior is that which fails to understand essential unity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man is one with ultimate reality. Man is spiritual, eternal, and impersonal. Man's belief that he is an individual is an illusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem of evil is incompatible with pantheism. That is, if there is a good God, then there should be no evil, else God is evil.
4 Spiritism and Polytheism (Thousands of Religions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit beings govern what goes on in the world's population. Gods and demons are the real reason behind "natural" events. Material things are real, but they have spirits associated with them. Thus, everything can be interpreted spiritually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truth concerning the natural world is discovered through the Shaman. He has visions telling him what the gods and demons are doing including how they feel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moral values take the form of taboos. Taboos are things that irritate or anger spirits. Taboos are not the same as "good and evil" because it is just as important to avoid irritating evil spirits as it is good ones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man is a creation of the gods just like other creatures of the earth. Some tribes have a special relationship with some gods who protect them and can punish them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multiplicity of deities implies none are omnipresent or omnipotent. Is worship moral toward deities that only protect us as we appease them like a cosmic mafia? It is like these multiple competing deities are begging for our worship.
5 Theism (Christianity; Judaism; Islam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An infinite personal God exists. He created a finite material world. Reality is both material and spiritual. The universe had a beginning and will have an end. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truth concerning God is known through revelation. Truth concerning the natural world is gained through revelation and the 5 senses, in conjunction with rational thought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moral values are the objective expression of an absolute moral being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mankind is the unique creation of God. Man was created "in the image of God." This means man is personal, eternal, and spiritual, as well as biological. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God cannot be proven scientifically, but neither can love, reason, morality, or faith to name a few. Belief in a Supreme Being is rational and consistent with what we observe in this life and universe.