

1. Our world can have only one accurate explanation.

No matter how our world is perceived, it can have only one accurate explanation, one true set of answers. No discussion or debate can be profitable unless all parties agree on this point.

1. What is the ultimate foundation of reality?
Personal forces: deity/deities? Impersonal forces?
2. How can we acquire accurate knowledge about our world?
Only with our senses? With the scientific method?
Divine revelation? Can we even know what is true?
3. What is the basis of ethical, moral, and aesthetic values?
The character of a divine being? Societal preferences?
Is any distinction among these values merely an illusion?
4. What is the ultimate solution for suffering?
Earthly utopia achieved through economic or political reform? Nirvana? Future redemption of the soul and body? Medical advances and life-preserving technologies?
5. What happens to man after death?
Does an eternal fate await him? Reincarnation?
Does his body simply return to the elements?

How you answer these basic questions reveals your personal *worldview*, your philosophy of life. Notice that the questions hinge upon the first question. What a person identifies as the ultimate foundation of reality will most significantly color his remaining answers. Secondly, the questions touch on basic worldview elements that are all *highly* interrelated. These include: theology, cosmology and cosmogony, anthropology, metaphysics, teleology, epistemology, axiology, and eschatology.