

QUESTIONS FOR “CONTEXTUALIZING” SUBJECT MATTER

Perhaps the best way to “contextualize” subject matter within the “larger frame of reference” provided by a Biblical Worldview, is to pose **open-ended questions that prompt reflection on how that subject matter relates to the biblical view of God, Creation, Humanity, Moral Order and Purpose.** As we think deeply about answers, as guided by God’s Word, we can personalize our understanding of things. And with this personalization may come a higher sense of meaning and purpose.

Below are examples of open-ended questions that prompt “contextualization” with the largest frame of reference possible. Wording of some questions may need to be adjusted for the very young.

“GOD” QUESTIONS:

How do you think God looks at _____?

How do you think God *feels* about _____?

Why do you think _____ is really important to God?

With respect to _____, what difference does a Christian view of God make in contrast to a Hindu, Humanist, etc.¹ view?

If you were God, what would you *do* about _____?

What has God said in His Word that relates directly or indirectly to _____?

Why do you think God is silent in His Word about _____?

How does God’s view of _____ differ from man’s view? (...from the view of a Humanist? ...the view of an Animist, etc.?)

How does _____ reveal God’s hand at work in the world? (How does God *participate* in _____?)

What *assumptions* about God lie behind _____?

What about _____ is in *harmony* with a biblical view of God? ...in *opposition* to a biblical view of God?

How does _____ help us to know God better?

¹ Various worldviews contrasting to Christianity may include materialism (naturalism), animism, humanism, relativism, hedonism, deism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Marxism, etc.

“CREATION” QUESTIONS:

Is there more to _____ than meets the eye?

How does the design of _____ reveal the Designer? What does it tell us *about Him*? What is He saying *to us* through it?

When it comes to its effects on the material world, what difference does a Christian view of _____ make? [...a Muslim view, ...a Humanist view, ...an Animist view, etc.]

What effects might unseen realities [angels/demons, etc.] have on _____?

Do you see any evidence of unseen spiritual forces on _____?

What is truly “real” about _____?

What *isn't* real about _____?

What about _____ is in *harmony* with a biblical view of creation? ...in *opposition* to a biblical view of creation?

What is _____ good for? Why do you think _____ is a part of creation?

What does _____ have to do with the First Commission [“Cultural Mandate”] of Genesis 1:26-28?

How does the Bible help us make sense of _____?

How does _____ relate to all other aspects of creation? (How does a Christian view of _____ tie together with the rest of what God has made?)

How has sin distorted _____?

What biblical realizations/clarifications/truths must be brought into the picture in order to make our understanding of _____ truly complete, or “whole?”

After God created the world, He said it was “good.” What is still “good” about _____ in a fallen world?

How does the biblical narrative of “Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration” relate to _____?

“HUMANITY” QUESTIONS:

When it comes to a Christian view of _____, what are the ramifications for human beings?

How has a Christian view of _____ affected human history? ...affected culture? ...affected the economy? ...affected the arts? ...affected business? ...affected the family? ...affected the workplace? *etc.*

What positive character qualities can _____ develop or strengthen? (How does _____ relate to a person's spiritual growth or spiritual decline?)

How does the view of a Christian affect one's interaction with _____? ...one's interpretation of _____? ...one's response to _____?

How does Christian *faith* relate to _____? How does _____ *affect* Christian faith?

What does _____ have to do with the work of a Christian car mechanic [...hair stylist, lawyer, teacher, artist, etc.]?

What does basic human nature relate to _____?

How does _____ *unite* people? ...*divide* people? ...*fulfill* people? ...*ruin* people? etc.

What assumptions about humanity lie behind _____?

When it comes to _____, what aspects of the human *mind* need to be transformed?

What worldviews would be *opposed* to _____, and why? ...in *favor* of, and why?

What is truly human about _____?

What about _____ is in *harmony* with a biblical view of humanity? ...in *opposition* to...?

How might _____ affect a Christian's view of the *future*?

What does _____ have to do with Christ's call to disciple the nations, and to teach people to observe all that He commanded (Matthew 28:18-20)?

When it comes to non-Christian views regarding _____, what is *missing*?

Is there anything in _____ that Christians need to re-learn? ...re-apply?

How can the study of _____ benefit humanity? How does _____ relate to building a healthy family? ...a healthy city? ...a healthy workplace? ...a healthy church?

How can we find joy in _____?

"MORAL ORDER" QUESTIONS:

What moral aspects are a part of _____?

How is _____ being misused or abused?

What value does a Christian see in _____?

What value does Christ see in _____?

From a Christian [Animist, Humanist, etc.] perspective, what determines whether _____ is right or wrong, good or bad?

Is there an absolute standard of right or wrong with respect to _____?

From a Christian perspective, what controversies surround _____?

With respect to _____, what has *not* been said that *should* be said?

How could _____ be approached in a truly God-honoring way?

How does biblical teaching about poverty/wealth relate to _____?

What basis for morality is there behind _____?

What special challenges are there for Christians with respect to _____? How can these challenges be addressed?

What is *best* about _____?

What responsibilities are part of _____? For whom?

What responsibility to God does _____ involve?

What about _____ is in harmony with a biblical view of morality? ...in opposition to a biblical view of morality?

What biblical reason [or, justification] is there for _____? ...biblical prohibition for _____?

What *rights* do people have with respect to _____? ...*responsibilities* do people have...?

How does _____ relate to the biblical idea of freedom? What *is* the biblical idea of freedom?

Why is there no neutral position with respect to _____?

What should Christians do [or, think] in response to _____?

What elements of truth in _____ do Christians share with Humanists [Islamists, Atheists, etc.]? Is there any common ground here?

How does sin relate to _____?

What might happen if _____ is carried to its logical conclusion? What *did* happen when it *was* carried to its logical conclusion?

“PURPOSE” QUESTIONS:

What purpose should a Christian see in _____?

What purpose does Christ see in _____?

Why does _____ really matter?

How does a Christian view of _____ make a difference in the way we understand its purpose?

What difference would the view of a Hindu, Humanist, or Animist, etc., make in how _____ is used?

What are biblically acceptable goals or objectives for _____?

How can _____ be aligned with Christ's purpose for it?

What assumptions about meaning or purpose are behind _____?

What effect does the "sacred-secular divide" have on _____?

How is _____ in *harmony* with a biblical view of purpose? ...in *opposition* to a biblical view of purpose?

What biblical reason [or, justification] is there for _____?

How does _____ relate to the First Commission of Genesis 1:26-28? ...to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20? ...to the Great Commandment of Mark 12:30-31?

How does the purpose of _____ relate to the future?

What gives _____ meaning for a Christian? ...for a Humanist? ...for an Animist?

What should Christians *do* in response to _____?

How does the Bible help us make sense of _____?

How does the Bible affect the application/implementation of _____?

How does _____ contribute to a Christian view of "wholeness?"

How should _____ affect the way Christians live? ...vote? ...work? ...play?

How can Christianity turn _____ around? ...restore it? ...redeem it?

What does _____ have to do with "world-changing," or "culture-making?"

These questions were designed for use with a tool called, "The Integration Conversation Starter." For a copy of this tool, and related resources, visit Worldview Matters® at www.worldviewmatters.com. This document ©2012 Christian Overman. Permission is granted to make copies for personal use, but not for resale.

