

World view summary: Christian Theism

A universe charged with the grandeur of God

From "A universe charged with the grandeur of God", chapter 1 of James W. Sire, *The Universe Next Door: a guide book to world views*, 3rd edn. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

1. God is:
 - good: this is the prime statement about God's character – God defines what goodness is
 - infinite: beyond scope or measure, the only self-existent being or thing
 - personal: not just a force, but a being with self-reflection and self-determination
 - triune: three persons, equally God, communal within "themselves"
 - transcendent: beyond creation; separate from what he has created – he exists apart from the universe
 - immanent: present with his creation and caring for it (Heb 1.3; Col 1.17)
 - omniscient: knows everything, including the past, present, and future
 - sovereign: attentive to and in charge of everything that happens in his universe
2. God created the universe out of nothing; it follows an ordered (cause & effect) pattern, but is an *open* system (he can make adjustments to it as he desires).
3. Human beings are created in the image of God, and thus possess personality, semi-transcendence, intelligence, morality, gregariousness, and creativity.
4. Human beings can know both the world around them and God himself because God has built into them the capacity to do so, and because he takes an active role in communicating with them (revelation).
5. Human beings were created good, but through the Fall the image of God became defaced, though not so ruined as to not be capable of restoration. Through the work of Christ, God redeemed humanity and began the process of restoring people to goodness, though any person may choose to reject that redemption.
6. For each person death is either the gate to eternal life with God and his people or the gate to eternal separation from God's blessings and ultimate fulfilment of human aspirations.
7. Ethics are based on the character of God as good (holy and loving).
8. History is a linear, meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfilment of God's purposes for creation.