

# Ephesians Series

Lesson #236

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Understanding Beauty**  
**Ephesians 5:15–16; Isaiah 6:1–4**



# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

## Results of being filled by the Spirit:

Eph. 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ,

Eph. 5:21, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Eph. 5:22, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

## Results of the Word dwelling richly:

Col 3:16b, “... teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Col. 3:18, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

## **Expanded translation of Col. 3:16**

**“You [insert your name] *must* let the Word of Christ make itself at home abundantly and generously in every aspect of your thinking and life with the result that you teach and admonish each other through singing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs in all wisdom, singing with grace in your hearts toward God.” [RD]**

# What are Our Assumptions?

## Summary:

- **The Scripture is our sole authority on worship.**
- **God and God alone defines worship.**
- **But how do we evaluate music? Is that not a matter of personal taste? Or culture? (subtext: good and bad music, art, literature, poetry, etc. are relative to culture and personal taste). Is this true?**

**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**The Immensity  
of God**



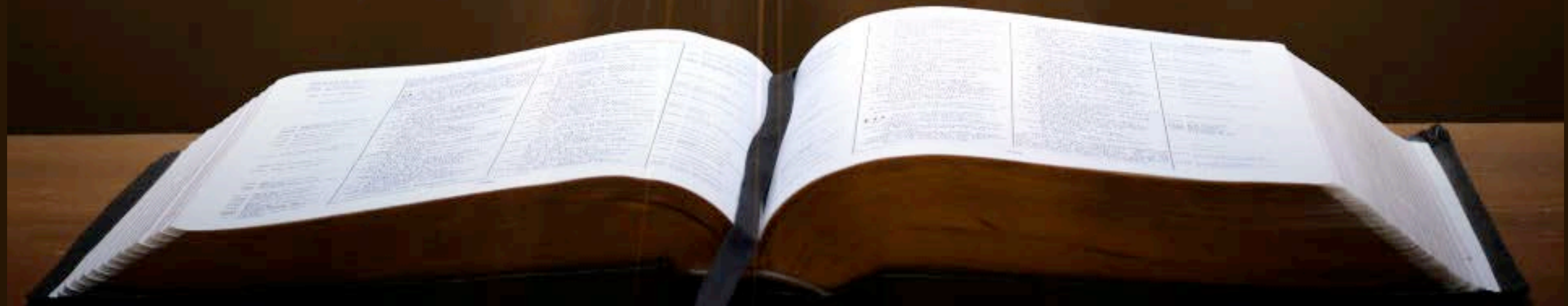
# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **The Holiness of God**



**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**The Meaning of Worship**





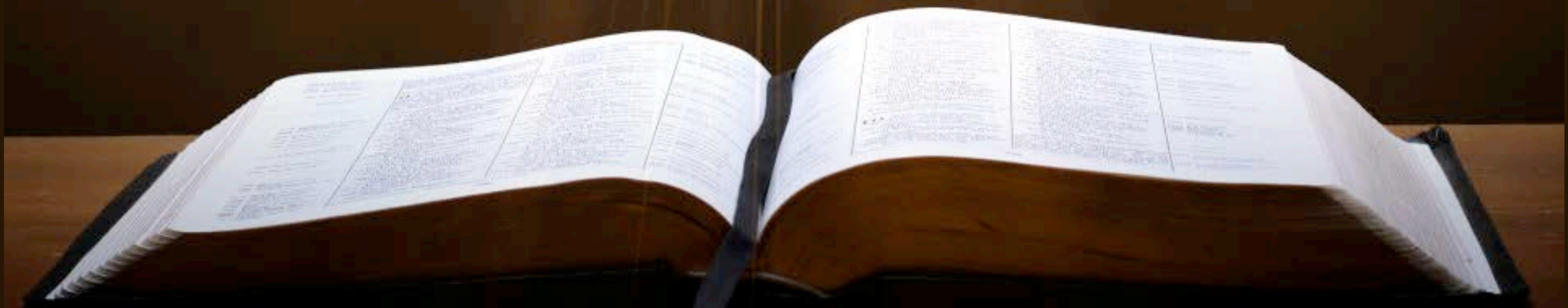
**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**Corporate Worship**



**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**The Origins of Music**



# ESSENCE OF GOD

Holy

Sovereign

Omniscient

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Veracity

Eternal Life

Immutability

## **Three implications:**

**First, that it was perfect in itself, that it was a form and function of music that was uncorrupted and untainted by anything less than ethical perfection.**

**Second, this implies necessarily that there is a standard by which music should be evaluated. In other words, there is GOOD music and BAD music.**

**Third, we must understand that music as music, is a language that communicates. It communicates nonverbally just as the “heavens declare the glory of God.”**

# The Impact of the World Upon Worship

The Greek word used in Romans 12:2 is not *kosmos*, but *aionos*, a word that emphasizes the time element. It is the spirit of the times or the worldview.

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of the spirit of the age [the *zeitgeist* of the culture], but be transformed by making your thinking new, that you may demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and complete.”

**What the Bible Teaches  
About  
The Elements and Forms  
of Worship**



# Forms and Elements of Worship

## 1. God prohibits the addition of unauthorized forms to worship.

**Lev. 10:1**, “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

**Lev. 10:2**, “So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

**Lev. 10:3**, “And Moses said to Aaron, ‘This is what the LORD spoke, saying: “By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.” ’ So Aaron held his peace.”

## **Forms of our Worship**

**Thus the forms of our worship should be informed and regulated by the Word of God.**

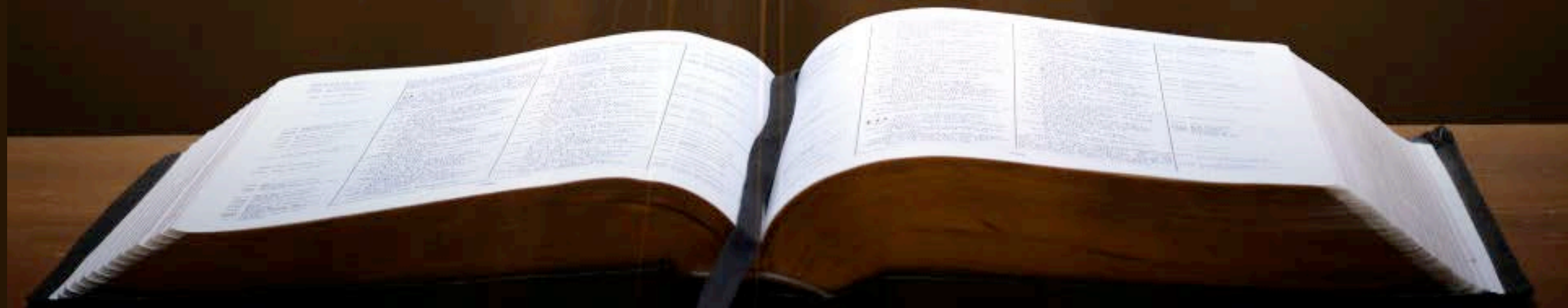
**We must think about how we determine what kind of music is acceptable for corporate worship.**



**John 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father by means of the Spirit and by means of Truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”**

**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**Worldview and Beauty**



# **1. What exactly is a “worldview?”**

- Basically, it is a set of mental glasses we wear through which we observe and interpret the world around us.**
- How we understand life and all of the issues of life is based on a worldview.**
- Most people never heard of this and never think about this.**

**Worldview: Comprehensive set of basic or ultimate beliefs that fit together in a consistent or coherent manner. A full worldview would include answers to the following questions and more: What kinds of realities are there, and what is ultimately real? What explanation can be given of reality? What is knowledge, and how do we gain it? What is it to have a reasonable or justified belief? What is the good, what is the good life for a human person and how does a person achieve such a life? What is beauty, and how is it related to reality and goodness?[1]**

**[1] Evans, C. Stephen. 2002. *Pocket Dictionary of Apologetics & Philosophy of Religion*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.**

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- **What is beauty, and how is it related to reality and goodness?**

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## 2. The Bible says a lot about “beauty.”

**שְׁבִי (šĕbî, “ornament”), beauty in the sense of the ornamentation that makes something beautiful (e.g., Isa. 4:2).**

**טוֹב (tôb, “good”), occasionally used to describe physical beauty, usually in phrases like “good (tôb) of appearance.”**

**תִּפְאָרָה (tip̄ārâ), to beautify, glorify.**

## **Words expressing Aesthetic excellence:**

- **Glorious**
- **Magnificent**
- **Majestic**
- **Splendid**
- **Beautiful**



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יָפִי (yōpî) “beauty”, noun,

יָפָה (yāpâ) “to be beautiful”,

יָפֶה (yāpeh) “beautiful”.

**2 Chron. 20:21, “And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:”**

**Psa. 45:11, “So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.”**

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**Isa. 28:5, “In that day the LORD of hosts will be for a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty to the remnant of His people,”**

**The Bible uses a number of terms to express the beauty and excellence of God. These terms establish God as the standard of beauty.**

**Thus,**

**God possesses *intrinsic* beauty which is the standard of all excellence, splendor, magnificence, beauty, and glory.**

### 3. Key verses:

זְבִי (šəbî) “ornament”

**Isa. 4:2, “In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious [*kavod*]; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.” [NKJV]**

### 3. Key verses:

תִּפְאֶרֶה (*tip'ārâ*) to beautify, glorify.

**Ex. 28:2**, “And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.”

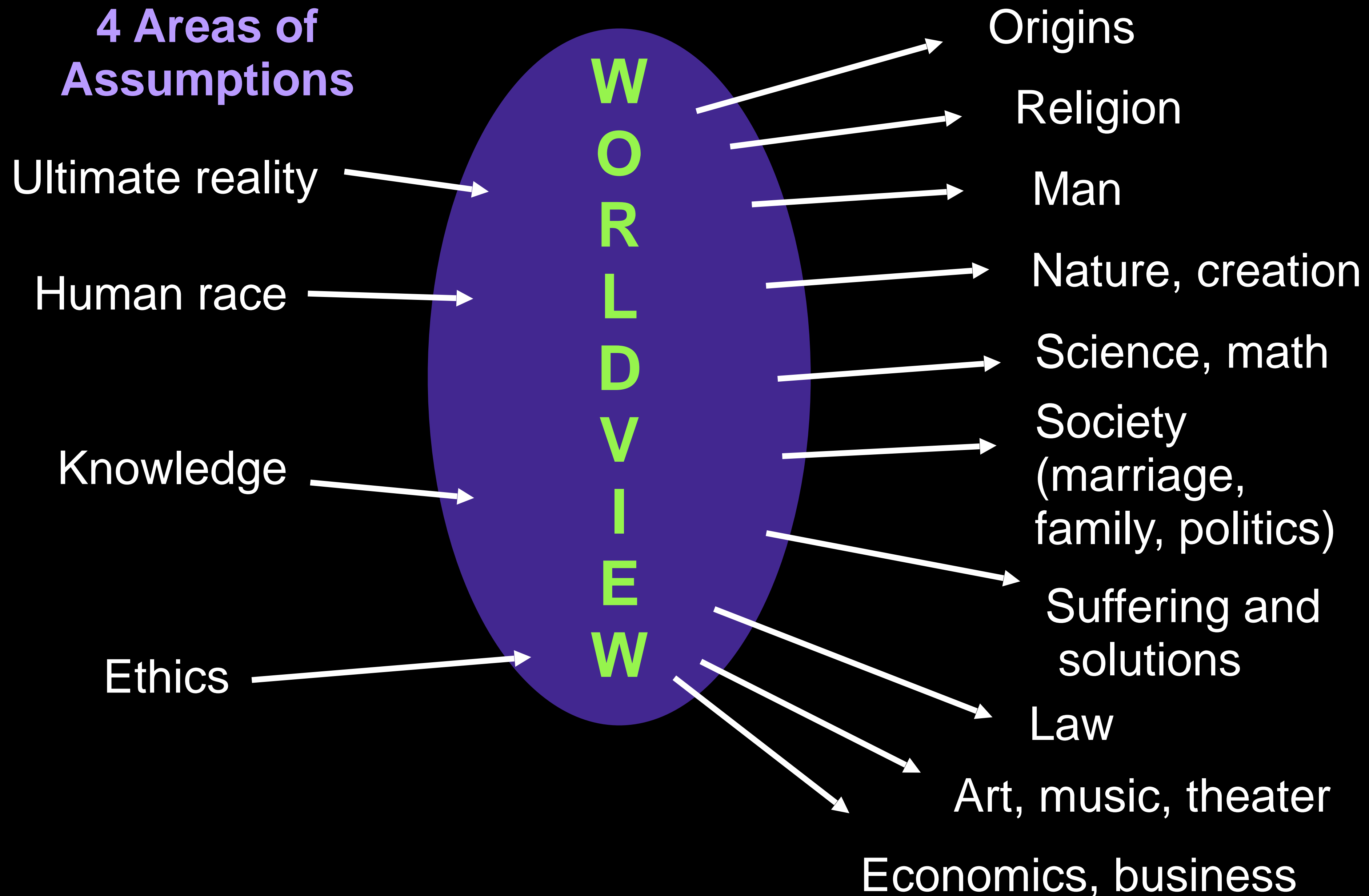
**Isa. 4:2**, “In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.”

**4. Beauty is an eternal standard as part of the eternal essence and character of God. Thus we must understand that the criteria is divine, not man-made.**

**“We call an object beautiful because it has certain properties that make it admirable. It has those properties whether or not it is having them results in its being enjoyable by you or me.”**

**~Mortimer J. Adler, ed. *Great Books of the Western World***

# The Worldview Mixmaster

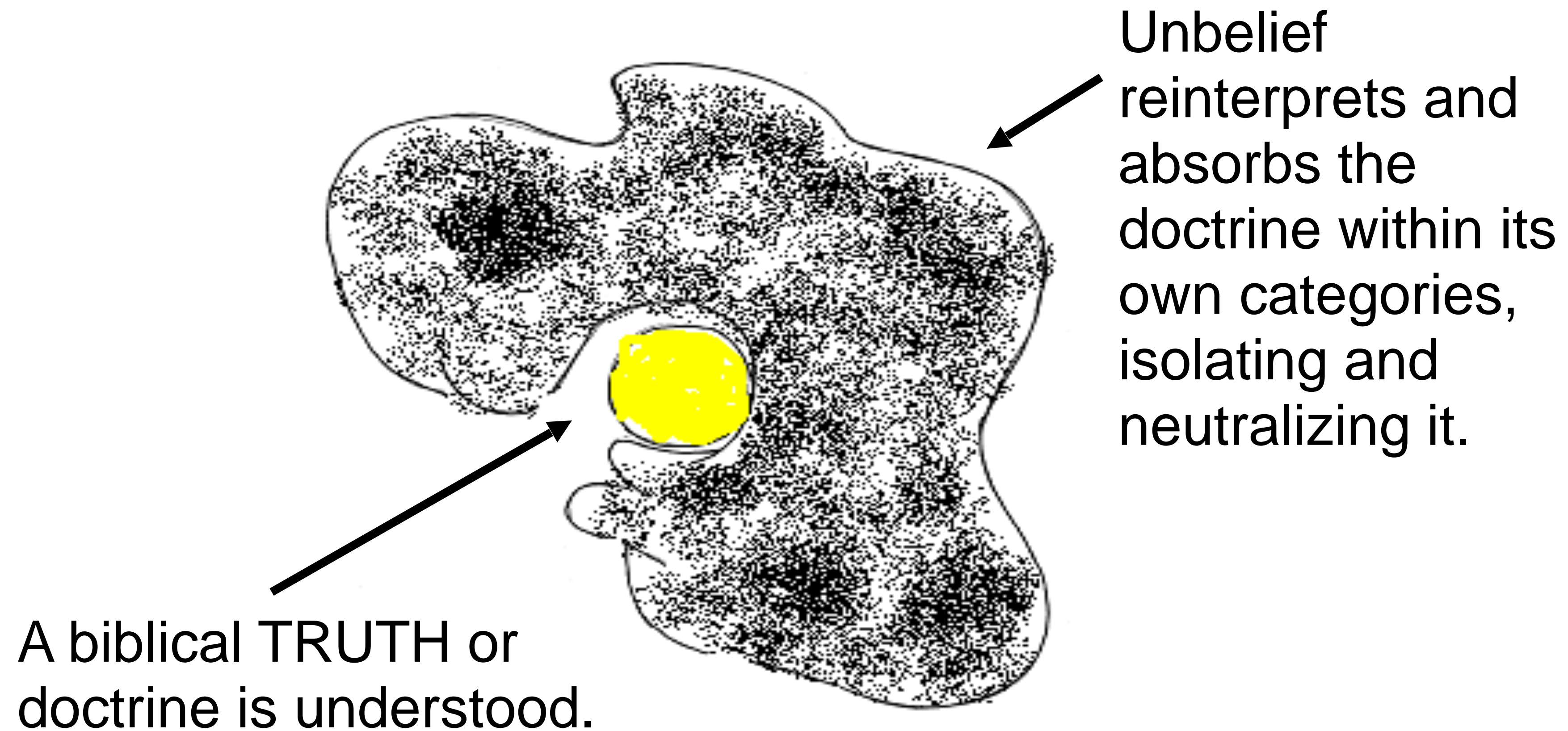


# Fundamental Questions Answered in Every Worldview

- 1. What IS Ultimate Reality?**
- 2. What is the nature of external reality?**
- 3. What is mankind?**
- 4. What happens when a person dies?**



# Human Viewpoint Neutralizes the Word of God



**“Pagan worldview absorbs and recasts doctrine”**

# Fundamental Questions Answered in Every Worldview

- 5. Why can we know, how do we know, and can we know anything with certainty?**
- 6. How do we know right from wrong?**
- 7. What is the meaning of history?**

# Application

**Statements on right, wrong, good, bad all begin with God**

**This is where we talk and argue.**

**Logical Sequence**

**These are the real issues, usually ignored.**

**Aesthetics (Beauty): What is beauty? What is good music, art, literature? Can we use terms like good and bad? Attractive, unattractive? On what basis?**

**Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?**

**Epistemology: How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?**

**Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, nothing**

**Pressures of life**

**Components of Worldview**

**Foundation of *all* thought**

**The American Worldview Inventory 2022 conducted by George Barna and the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University revealed that a majority of today's parents (Millennials) do not possess a biblical worldview. 94% of parents of pre-teens possess a worldview known as Syncretism—"a blending of multiple worldviews in which no single life philosophy is dominant"—and only a sparse 2% actually possess a biblical worldview.**

**“It seems that most pre-teen parents are unaware—or certainly unfazed—by the the contradiction between calling themselves ‘Christian,’ but living in ways that repudiate the teachings of Jesus and the principles of the Bible.”**