

# Worldview, Ethics, Values

## Leading Self

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EUD LeadLab 2.0, Madrid

January 13, 2026



# 1. Seeing What Shapes Us



We often assume we see reality clearly  
— until we discover we don't



Worldview functions like water for a fish—largely invisible, yet constantly formative.



# Seeing What Shapes Us

- Leadership is inseparable from worldview
- Transformation in how we see what shapes us requires renewed thinking

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)





# FROM UNEXAMINED ASSUMPTIONS TO CONSCIOUS LEADERSHIP



**UNCONSCIOUS AUTOPILOT**



**CONSCIOUS AWARENESS**

## 2. What Is a Worldview?





- How would you describe a “worldview” in your own words—and why do you think it matters (or doesn’t) for Christian Adventist leadership?





# What Is a Worldview?

Worldview = a deep framework of assumptions about:

- Reality
- Truth
- Value



# What Is a Worldview?

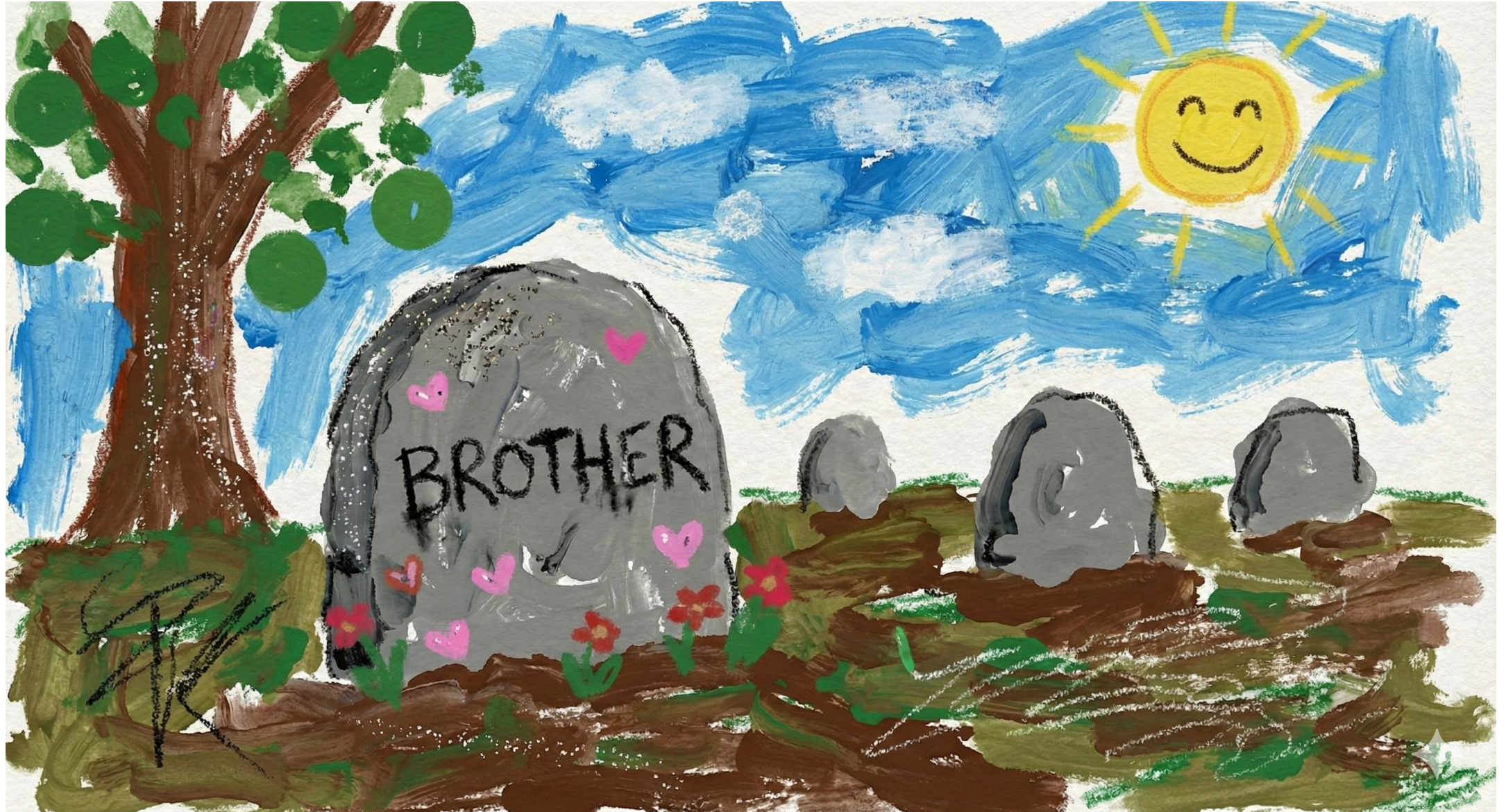
- *Weltanschauung* — a way of seeing the world [derived from the German word *Weltanschauung*, which consists of *Welt* ('world') and *Anschauung* ('view' or 'outlook')]. The concept of worldview is generally associated with German philosophy during the period of Idealism and Romanticism, referring to a comprehensive view of the world.
- Sire (2004): worldview as "a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic makeup of our world" (p. 19). A worldview should give an answer to the question 'What is prime reality?' or 'How can anyone know anything at all?' (p. 21).



# 3. Stories of Worldview Formation







Metaphysics / Ontology (What is a human being? What happens at death?)



# Stories of Worldview Formation

*Axiology (What is good? What makes a life acceptable?)*





*And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.*

Deut. 28:13 (NKJV)





1. **Axiology** (*primary link – values & worth*)
2. **Ontology** (*secondary link – identity & being*)
3. **Epistemology** (*implicit link – how truth is known*)



- Looking back at your life timeline, where can you identify moments in which your worldview shaped your decisions, priorities, or direction—and what impact did this have on you?



# 4. Philosophy's “Zero Point”

The Three Core Questions



# The Three Core Questions –

## Three fundamental philosophy categories

**1. What is Real?** (Metaphysics / Ontology) 

**2. How Do We Know?** (Epistemology) 

**3. What is of Value?** (Axiology) 





# The Three Core Questions

## 1. **What is Real?** (Metaphysics / Ontology)

- What is ultimately real?
- God, humanity, life, death, hope
- Leadership implication: people as dignity, not resources

*And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." Exodus 3:14 (NKJV)*

*<sup>16</sup>For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup>And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Colossians 1:16-17 (NKJV)*



# The Three Core Questions

## 2. How Do We Know? (Epistemology)

- How do we know what is true?
- Reason, experience, revelation, culture
- Leadership implication: how we decide, listen, and disagree

*Your word is truth.*

John 17:17 (NKJV)



# The Three Core Questions

## 3. What is of Value? (Axiology)

- What is good and worth living for?
- Ethics, values, purpose
- Leadership implication: what we reward, tolerate, or resist

*<sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

Genesis 1:4-5 (NKJV)



# 5. The World of Worldviews



# The World of Worldviews

- **Definition:** James Sire (2004) defines a worldview not just as an intellectual concept, but as "a commitment, a fundamental **orientation of the heart**".
  - A worldview is a **commitment**, a **fundamental orientation of the heart**, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being (p. 122).
- **The "Fish in Water" Problem:**
  - We are often unaware of our own worldview **until it is challenged**. We may **unconsciously adopt** cultural worldviews like **Consumerism** (I am what I own) or **Individualism** (I am the center of the universe) without realizing they conflict with our Christian faith.





# Naming the Elephant

WORLDVIEW AS A CONCEPT



JAMES W. SIRE

Author of *The Universe Next Door*

JAMES W. SIRE



# THE UNIVERSE NEXT DOOR

SIXTH EDITION

A BASIC  
WORLDVIEW  
CATALOG



# Sire's 7 Basic Questions

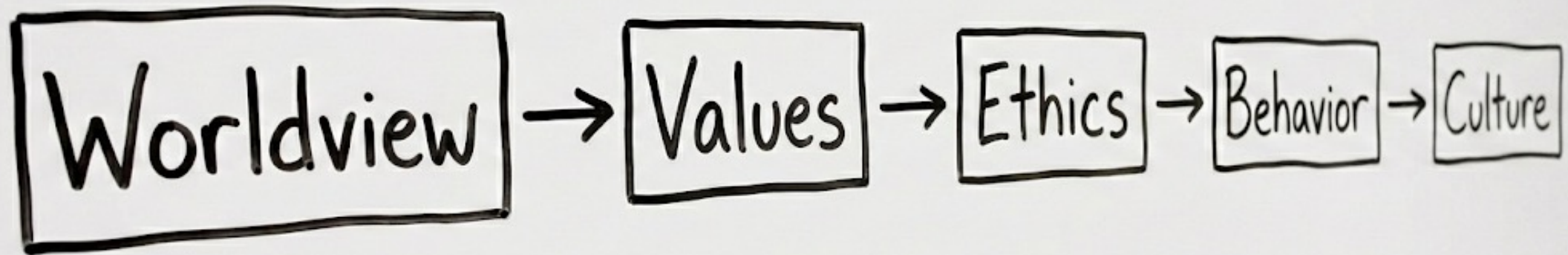
1. What is prime reality – the really real?
2. What is the nature of external reality, i.e. the world around us?
3. What is a human being?
4. What happens to a person at death?
5. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
6. How do we know what is right and wrong?
7. What is the meaning of human history?



# 6. From Worldview to Ethics

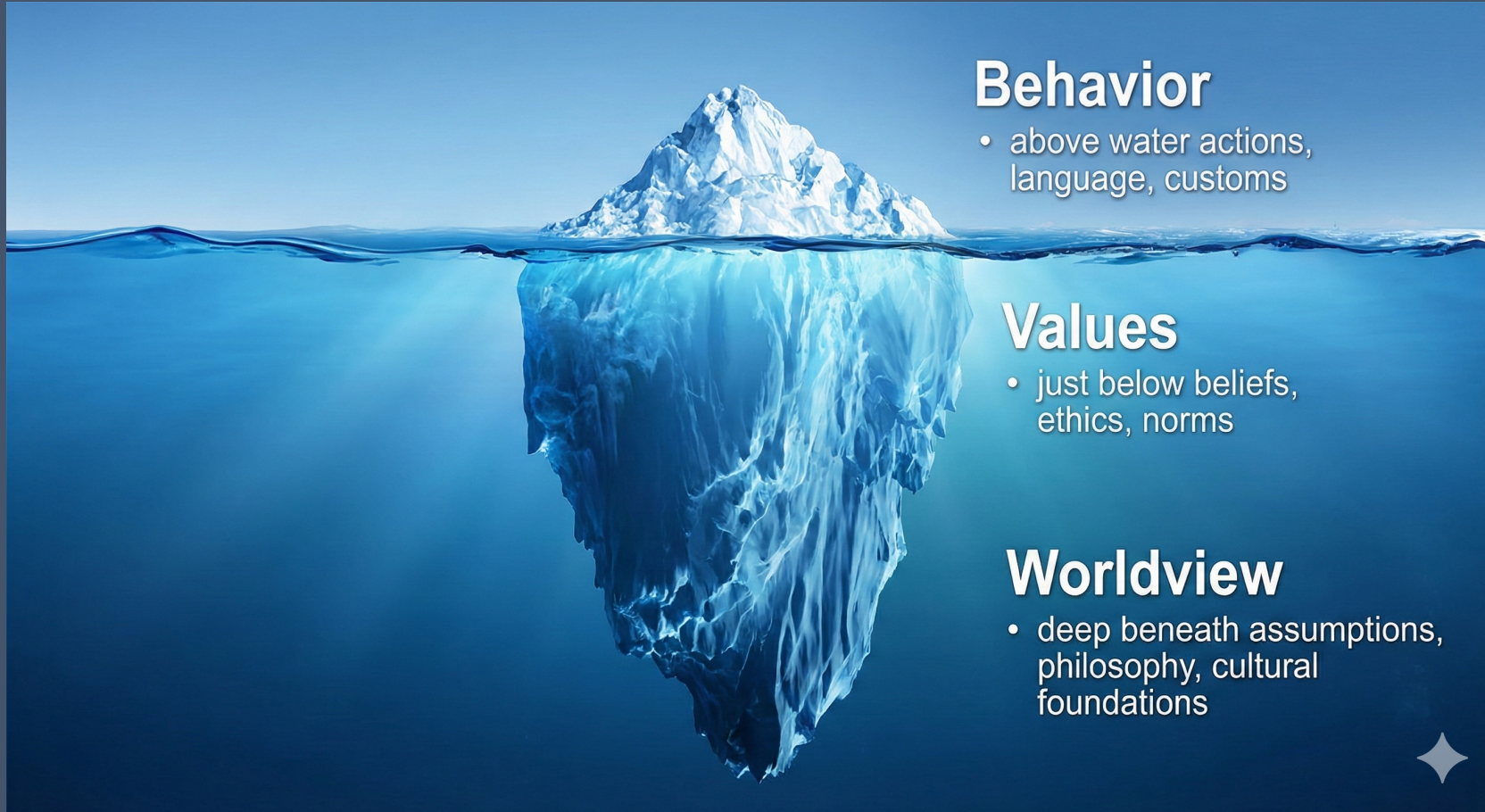


# From Worldview to Ethics



# Iceberg Model

## Schein's (2010) Three Levels of Organizational Culture





# Christian Ethics in Action – The Micah 6:8 Model



- Where in your current leadership context is God inviting you to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly — and which of these three is most challenging for you right now? Why?



# 7. Leading in a Pluralistic World



# Leading in a Pluralistic World



# Dialogue, Discussion, Debate

## COMPARISON: DIALOGUE, DISCUSSION, DEBATE

Illustrating different modes of communication and their primary objectives.



# Leading in a Pluralistic World



- “When I feel tension or disagreement, my instinct is to \_\_\_\_\_, but the situation often needs \_\_\_\_\_.”





# Leading in a Pluralistic World



- Think of a past situation where convictions differed in your leadership context. Which mode did you choose — dialogue, discussion, or debate — and what would you keep or change if you faced it again?



# 8. The Call to Serve





# The Call to Serve



- Is your leadership built on the shifting sands of cultural trends or the bedrock of God's character?
- Do your actions as a leader match the values you proclaim?
- Are you open to loving those with different worldviews while remaining true to your own?



# The Call to Serve and Multiply

*Christ has said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” That is the work we are to do, and God will help us by letting His light shine through us. We want to be the very best and most intelligent workers that there are anywhere.*

*Ellen G. White, 1888 Materials, 147.2*

Let us go from here, not just as leaders, but as thinkers and servants who lead with a transformed mind.



# 9. Personal Integration

Transition into Learning Groups



# Learning Groups – Reflection 1

Christian leadership growth begins not with better techniques, but with a renewed mind, a surrendered heart, and a daily baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Where do you see God inviting you to grow in how you think, decide, and lead when convictions (worldviews, values, ethics) differ?



# Learning Groups – Reflection 2

Example scenarios (choose between 3-5)

- 1) A values-based conflict in a diverse team (faith / culture / ethics)
- 2) A decision where efficiency conflicts with compassion
- 3) A strong disagreement between senior leaders
- 4) A situation where your conviction is questioned publicly
- 5) A policy discussion touching identity, belief, or conscience

- How would you instinctively engage this situation?
  - Dialogue?
  - Discussion?
  - Debate?
- Why this mode?
  - What are you protecting?
  - What feels at risk



# Learning Groups – Reflection 2

Example scenarios (choose between 3-5)

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- Now, quietly think about occasions where you experienced similar situations and reflect on your reaction in those situations. Which mode did you use?
  - Dialogue?
  - Discussion?
  - Debate?



# Learning Groups – Reflection 2

Example scenarios (choose between 3-5)

- 1) A values-based conflict in a diverse team (faith / culture / ethics)
  - 2) A decision where efficiency conflicts with compassion
  - 3) A strong disagreement between senior leaders
  - 4) A situation where your conviction is questioned publicly
  - 5) A policy discussion touching identity, belief, or conscience
- Share one of your past experiences with your group, present which mode you plan to use in a comparable situation in the future, and how you plan to lead such a situation.





# Learning Groups – Reflection 2

Example scenarios (choose between 3-5)

- 1) A values-based conflict in a diverse team (faith / culture / ethics)
- 2) A decision where efficiency conflicts with compassion
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Check your second approach against three questions:

- Does this **act justly**?
- Does this **love mercy**?
- Does this **walk humbly**?



# Learning Groups – Reflection 3

**Write a short personal worldview statement** (5–6 sentences) for yourself.  
You might use this simple structure:

**My current worldview as a leader:**

- *I believe reality is...* (what is ultimately real / who God is / view of people)
- *I understand truth as...* (how I discern, listen, decide)
- *I value...* (what truly matters, shapes priorities)
- *Ethically, this leads me to...* (how I act, decide, engage others)
- *Therefore, in my leadership, I want to...* (concrete commitment or practice)



*Thank you for your active  
participation!*

