

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

> A CLASH OF WORLDVIEWS <



Questions asked so far:

- How can I make a difference?
- How can I live well?
- What to say about homosexuality – the question the church still struggles with?
- If being same-sex attracted is wrong, why has God made so many people with these feelings?
- Why does the church as an institution react with hostility towards people who are gay and lesbian (even celibate gay Christians)?
- What does it mean to be a man/woman and to what extent is gender/sexuality a culturally defined concept?
- What are the options for someone who is LGBT and wants to be/is a Christian? What should the church's response to LGBT people be?
- What is the best possible investment of my money?
- Evil/suffering/anxiety/Alzheimer's/drug addiction/depression/suicide/war/slavery/trafficking/MS – Why?
- What is holding me back from living a life that is more fun/happy/better?
- How do I mend my relationships with others when entrenched rivalries exist?
- Religion is responsible for most wars, right? Are the church supposed to be peace makers? What does that look like?

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FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY > SEXUALITY PART 1

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY > SEXUALITY PART 2

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY > MONEY

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY > POLITICS

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY > THE ENVIRONMENT

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY > PURPOSE (LIVING WELL)

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY > HAPPINESS

Not necessarily in this order. Let us know if you have any others.

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What is a worldview?

A way of explaining the world, including:

- Origins: where we have come from
- Future: where we are going
- Ethics: how do we live in the light of this?



The innate dignity and value of everyone, equality

Pensions to care for those in retirement

Accessible healthcare

Social justice, including racial justice

Eradication of poverty, welfare

Animal rights, good stewardship of the earth

Innocent until proven guilty

Stewardship of children, including good parenting and education

Value of good governance, honesty, integrity and sacrifice in leadership


Functional, mutually respecting relationships

World peace

So our medieval ancestors were happy because they found meaning in the afterlife? Yes. As long as nobody punctured their fantasies, why shouldn't they? **As far as we can tell from a purely scientific view point, human life has absolutely no meaning. Humans are the outcomes of blind evolutionary processes that operate without goal or purpose.** Our actions are not part of some divine cosmic plan, and if planet Earth were to blow up tomorrow morning, the universe would probably keep going about its business as usual. As far as we can tell at this point, human subjectivity would not be missed. Hence any meaning that people ascribe to their lives is just a delusion. The other-worldly meanings medieval people found in their lives were no more deluded than the humanist, nationalist or capitalist meanings modern people find. The scientist who says her life is meaningful because she increases the store of human knowledge, the soldier who declares that his life is meaningful because he fights to defend his homeland, and the entrepreneur who finds building a new company are no less delusional than their medieval counterparts who found meaning in reading scriptures, going on a crusade or building a cathedral'.

p. 438, Yuval Noah Harari, Sapiens

Yuval Noah
Harari



Sapiens

A Brief
History of
Humankind

Dominant 21st Western worldview: **Express yourself.**

Jesus-centred worldview: **Deny yourself.**

Luke 9.23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Matthew 16.24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12. 1-2