

The Scream Edvard Munch

The uniqueness of Christianity in a pluralist society

Outline for notes and
discussion questions

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for

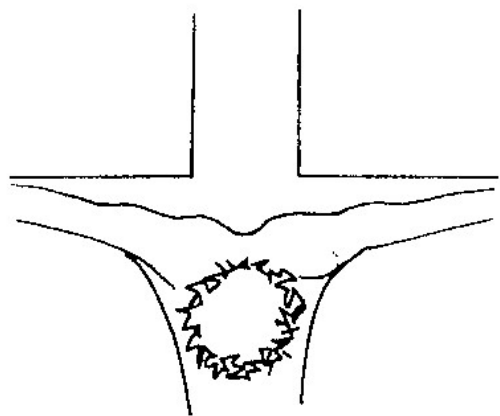
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Nietzsche



PART A: Perspectivism / Pluralism

1. Introduction to “*Perspectivism*”
2. What is a “world view”?
3. Three ways of viewing truth and life that flow out of *perspectivism/ pluralism*:
 - a. There are no absolutes
 - b. All religions are equally valid
 - c. *Subjectivism*
4. *Pluralism* and the social context
 - a. Global village
 - b. Population movement
 - c. Consumerism
 - d. Loss of confidence in a ‘big story’

Part B: The Christian World View

The main features of the Christian world view are:

- i. God is there
- ii. The creation has order and purpose
- iii. Humanity is made in God's image
- iv. Human history and life is not cyclical
- v. God is not absent or silent - he communicates with us
- vi. Our rejection of God's authority and its ramifications
- vii. God's loving response
- viii. The presence of God and the power to change
- ix. The resurrection of Christ and the ultimate future
- x. Everyone is accountable

Questions for group discussion

1. Do you think most people who reject “absolutes” actually live their daily lives consistent with their beliefs? If not, why not?
2. Why do people tend to be inconsistent with their world views?
3. How much is our world view affected by our social context?
4. Which of the 10 features of the Christian world-view do you have the most difficulty with?

PART C: Questions and problems that arise out of
perspectivism, pluaralism, subjectivism and relativism

1. Ethics and morality – how do we decide?
2. The reality of evil – how do we deal with it?
3. Guilt: forgiveness and redemption
4. Narcissism
5. Anti-foundationalism – difficult to live out

The four alternatives:

1. Diversion
2. Invention
3. Despair
4. Christian faith

Questions for group discussion

1. Do you think the answers the Christian faith gives to the questions raised in the session are reasonably satisfying?

2. Which of the “four alternatives” do you think most people around you choose, and do you think that the basis for their choice is serious and well thought out?

3. Do you think there are any other options for those who reject absolutes than the four presented: diversion, invention, despair, christianity?

Further Reading

Long Journey Home	Os Guinness (WaterBrook 2001)
The Universe Next Door	James Sire (IVP 1999)
The Case for Christ	Lee Strobel (Harper Collins 1998)