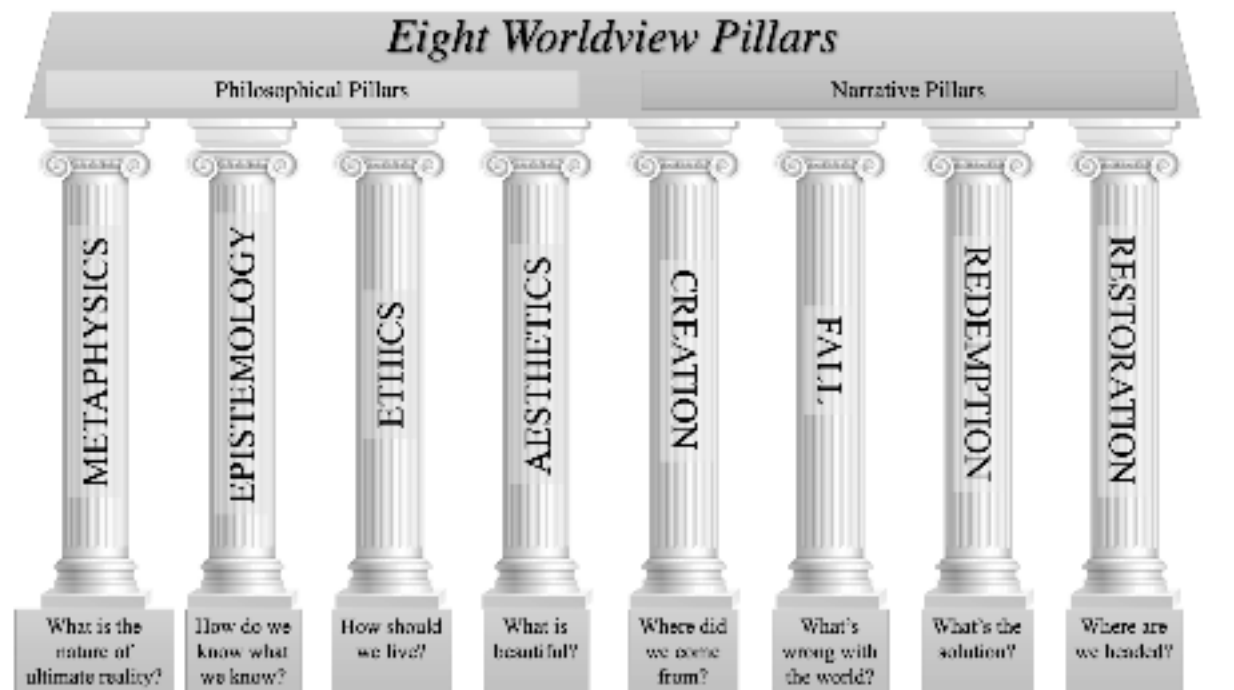


## Cultural Engagement Two Kingdoms (Part 2)



*Two Kingdoms*



*"Worldviewism"*

## **Natural Law in Scripture**

- “For when the Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, these ones not having a law are a law unto themselves, who show that the law is written on their hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or defending them.” (Rom. 2:14-15)
- “For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another...” (Rom. 1:26-27)
- “Doesn’t nature teach you...?” (1 Cor. 11:14)

## **Definition of Natural Law**

- The objective moral order based upon human nature as created by God.
- Knowable by all people (even unbelievers) through human intuition and reasoning alone, apart from Scripture.
- Can be clarified by Scripture when human reasoning is impaired by sin or immaturity.

## **How do we apply the Bible to culture?**

- 2K: “Scripture gives us the big picture, but concrete, detailed application more often depends on reason, prudence, and expertise (i.e., natural law).”
- 2K: “Don’t confuse commands to individual believers with instructions for civil government, and don’t confuse our heavenly hope with our earthly duties.”

## **Test cases: what would a 2K response be?**

- “The Bible presents a vision of the heavenly kingdom where swords are beaten into plowshares (Isa. 2:2-4), therefore Christians should live in light of that reality now by working toward stricter gun control laws.”
- “Jesus says that we should welcome the stranger (Matt. 25:35), therefore Christians should work toward increased immigration and open borders.”

## **What would a natural law case against gay marriage look like?**

- A natural link between marriage, sex, procreation, exclusivity, and commitment

## **Objections to the natural law case against gay marriage**

- “What about gay couples that adopt?”
- “What about straight couples that struggle with infertility?”
- “Opposing gay marriage is as unjust as opposing interracial marriage.”
- “These arguments don’t actually persuade unbelievers.”

“It’s hard to make the case that marriage, shorn of its procreative *telos*, is something of which complementary sexes are uniquely and exclusively capable. This is one of the main reasons we evangelicals have lost the cultural and legal wars on this issue. We already accept many of the culture’s premises, and have little besides special revelatory fiat with which to answer the inexorable chant of ‘marriage equality!’ ... Everywhere we turn, evangelicals seem to be floundering to come up with good reasons to oppose secular culture on issues pertaining to nature—sexuality, marriage, reproduction, gender, and the like. On some issues, we have simply capitulated to the culture with little fight. In the end, this tendency to affirm Scriptural fiats ‘for whatever reason’ while isolating them from the natural theology employed by the human authors of Scripture ... will result—and already has resulted—in dramatic concessions to the anti-Christian culture.” —Shane Morris, “Rules Without Reasons: Why the Culture Is Eating Evangelicals for Lunch,” Troubler of Israel (Patheos.com)

