



# Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept

*James W. Sire*

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**Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept** James W. Sire

What is a worldview?

What lies behind your thoughts about almost everything?

For more than thirty years, James W. Sire has grappled with this issue. In his widely used textbook *The Universe Next Door*, first published in 1976, Sire offered a succinct definition of a worldview and catalogued in summary fashion seven basic worldview alternatives. Students, critics, new literature and continued reflection have led him to reexamine and refine his definition of a worldview. This second edition companion volume to *The Universe Next Door* is the fruit of that effort, offering readers his most mature thought on the concept of a worldview, addressing such questions as

- What is the history of the concept itself?
- What is the first question you should ask in formulating a worldview?
- How are worldviews formed existentially as well as intellectually?
- Is a worldview primarily an intellectual system, a way of life or a story?
- What are the public and private dimensions of a worldview?
- What role can worldview thinking play in assessing your own worldview and those of others, especially in light of the pluralism in today's world?

*Naming the Elephant* is an excellent resource for exploring more deeply how and why worldview thinking can aid you in navigating your pluralistic universe.



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