Worldviews
Mr. Myers

Philosophy: A Christian Epistemology

1. Means of knowing truth
	1. Six means of knowing

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|  | **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| Experience | * Universally accepted
* It works
 | * We can’t see everything
* We don’t interpret data the same way
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| Reason | * Allows us to go beyond what we can see
 | * Can lead to absurd conclusions
* Limited in scope
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| Intuition | * Can be convincing for individuals
 | * Can’t be verified very well
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| Witness | * Provides information beyond what people can see or reason for themselves
 | * “Experts” are fallible and subject to peer pressure or hidden agendas
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| Culture | * Gives access to the accumulated knowledge of many generations
 | * Traditions can be distorted and self-serving
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| Revelation | * Time tested
* Gives access to information otherwise unknowable
 | * Revelation is only as reliable as the Revealer
* Still requires interpretation
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* 1. Reliability of means of knowing
		1. Intuition is probably the least verifiable means of knowing
		2. Culture and witness require faith in other people
		3. Reason and experience require faith in ourselves
		4. Revelation requires faith in the Revealer
		5. Conclusion
			1. Anything that ultimately relies on human beings is subject to failure
				1. We are human and therefore limited
				2. We are fallen and therefore possess distorted abilities
			2. A Christian’s primary confidence is not in his ability to know but in God’s ability to reveal truth to us and guide us into that truth
				1. God is competent—He is not limited in knowledge or ability
				2. God is loving—He wants us to know truth
			3. God has revealed truth to His creation directly, through prophets, through inspired writers, through angels, through the Holy Spirit, and most of all, in Jesus Christ. We have a record of this communication in the Scriptures. Christians believe that the Scriptures are true and are authoritative for knowing and living. Without the Scriptures, we would never know the answers to many of life’s most important questions. Christians believe that the Scriptures trump other means of knowing. At the same time, Christians recognize that the Bible requires interpretation and realize that their ability to do that perfectly is limited as well. As a result, their confidence in the truth of the Scriptures is sure and secure, but they remain humble about their understanding of it and always open to a deeper and better understanding.
			4. A Christian’s secondary confidence is placed in a combination of the other means of knowing