World view

We all see life through a particular worldview. What does the term worldview mean? Geisler and Watkins in their book *Worlds Apart: A Handbook on World Views* (2003) define the term:

A world view is a way of viewing or interpreting all of reality. It is an interpretive framework through which or by which one makes sense out of the data of life and the world. (11)

This concept is important to understand as we read articles about the value of life because every author or person of focus (e.g., Roger Ebert) may show their world view through their perception of life. Each world view has characteristic tenets that the person of that world view likely holds to be true, and so the world view could come out in their writing. In his book *The Universe Next Door* (2009), Sire proposes that if a world view could be expressed conceptually, the answers to these questions would provide the ideas that can make up the world view:

1. What is really real?
2. What is the nature of external reality, that is, the world around us?
3. What is a human being?
4. What happens to a person at death?
5. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
6. How do we know what is right and wrong?
7. What is the meaning of human history?
8. What personal, life-orienting core commitments are consistent with this worldview? (Basically, what are the core commitments). For example, a naturalist may say that a core commitment is to do as much good as they can for others. (22-23)