

HOW TO LIVE IN A POSTMODERN CULTURE

Part 1

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WHAT IS POSTMODERNISM?

S. Michael Houdmann (GotQuestions.com) writes: "Simply put, postmodernism is a philosophy that affirms no objective or absolute truth, especially in matters of religion and spirituality.

When confronted with a truth claim regarding the reality of God and religious practice, postmodernism's viewpoint is exemplified in the statement 'that may be true for you, but not for me.'

While such a response may be completely appropriate when discussing favorite foods or preferences toward art, such a mindset is dangerous when it is applied to reality because it confuses matters of opinion with matters of truth."

FOUR MAJOR SETBACKS OF POSTMODERNISM

No. 1: Absolute truth is **rejected**

→ This leads to the view that there are many ways to God and several equally valid means to salvation (pluralism)

No. 2: Immorality is becoming **socially acceptable**

→ As a result, America has lost its moral compass

No. 3: The decline of biblical **marriage and family**

→ As a result, biblical marriage is being redefined legally

No. 4: The church is no longer seen as being **relevant**

→ As a result, Bible illiteracy and deconstructionism are creeping into mainstream Christianity

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the underlying root-cause of postmodernism? (Rom. 1:19-21a)

- *Man rejects God (Rom. 1:19-21a).*
- *Pride*

2. What are the effects of this root-cause? (Rom. 1:21b-23)

- *Man's thinking and reasoning became foolish (Rom. 1:21b-22).*
- *Man makes other things more important than God (Rom. 1:23).*

3. What is God's response to this? (Rom. 1:24-32)

- *God gives them over to their rebellious desires (Rom. 1:24-27).*
- *God gives them over to their depraved behavior (Rom. 1:28-32).*

4. How do the following verses help us with responding to those who embrace postmodernism?

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 *Satan has blinded their eyes—apart from God's saving grace that could be us*
- Colossians 4:6 *Our speech is to be full of grace, and we are to know how to give an answer*
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 *We are to demolish arguments that oppose God's Word*

5. Living an authentic Christian life will attract those who embrace postmodernism—true or false?

- *Matt. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

Where to Get More Information

Houdmann, S. Michael. *Got Questions Ministries*. Colorado Springs, n.d. <<http://www.gotquestions.org/>>.

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Swindoll, Charles R. *The Church Awakening: An Urgent Call for Renewal*. New York: Faith Words, 2010.

Veith Jr., Gene Edward. *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*. Wheaton: Good News Publishers, 1994.