

## THOUGHTS ABOUT POSTMODERNISM

Postmodernism is a world-view, a way of looking at the world and drawing conclusions about everything including religion. This system has been incubating in our society since the 1960s and has now broken forth in full flower. It is dominant in virtually all secular colleges and universities and in great numbers of religious schools. Postmodernists feel they have outgrown the old "Modern" way of looking at life and the world. Hence they identify themselves as those living after the end of the old 'modern' world view. Like all the other worldly sorts who have sought to create their own standards for life, they think their way of seeing things is vastly superior to what has gone before. Many of the spokesmen for the change movement that is sweeping through our brotherhood are enamored with postmodern thought. Their books are filled with references to it. They argue that their agenda must be adopted if churches are to survive in the postmodern world. Since most adults 50 or above were educated in the 'modern' world view, postmodernism seems like a strange language to their ears. They hear words, but do not understand the meaning. The following quotes are from **Postmodern Times** by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. They will help the average Christian understand what it is we are up against.

- \* "Postmodernism is a world view that denies all world views." It certainly challenges the Christian world view.
- \* "Postmodernists...begin by rejecting the notion that life has an objective meaning."
- \* "Postmodernist philosophers argue that all truth is a kind of fiction." This is a direct assault against the Bible.
- \* "When postmodernists say, 'There are no absolutes,' this is no frivolous claim. The course of modern secular thought has led them to this conclusion." This they apply to religion, ethics and morality.
- \* "For postmodernists, morality, like religion, is a matter of desire."
- \* "In the past people argued about what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is false. Today (postmodern) people dismiss the very concepts of morality and truth."
- \* "Postmodernists,...reject moral and religious absolutes just as they reject aesthetic absolutes."
- \* "The postmodernist rejection of objectivity pervades the evangelical church." It found its way first into some of our schools and from them into some of our churches.
- \* "The postmodernist sins are 'being judgmental,' 'being narrow-minded,' 'thinking that you have the only truth,' and 'trying to enforce your values on anyone else.'" This is manifest in the message of the change agents.
- \* "Postmodernists reduce theological, moral and human mysteries to matters of technical expertise."
- \* "Postmodern religions do not require evidence or plausibility."
- \* "Postmodernists do not recognize the boundary between truth and fiction...they reject objectivity and maintain their position that truth is relative."
- \* "Postmodernism in its rejection of objective truth, has clear affinities with Hinduism and Buddhism." Many postmodernists find the message of the "New Age" cults appealing and useful in their teaching and practice.
- \* "Postmodernism is antifoundational. It seeks to destroy all ... objective foundations and to replace them with nothing." This helps us understand the attacks the promoters of change are making against the church.
- \* "Postmodernists employ techniques of literary criticism to dissect laws, institutions, and moral traditions..."
- \* "Postmodernists also seek to dissolve history. They no longer see it as a record of objective facts... Since there is no objective truth, history may be rewritten according to the needs of a particular group." Change agents have written a number of books attacking the history of the churches of Christ and presenting a revised story of what occurred in the past. They present their record as what they think it should have been.
- \* "Postmodernists, more than most people, complain about how various power structures are unfair, and they are always demanding sensitivity, tolerance, and justice."
- \* "Postmodernism minimizes the individual in favor of the group."
- \* "Postmodernist morality has a curious tenet—the concept of collective responsibility and collective guilt."
- \* "Postmodernists tend on principle to rebel against authority." They rebel against the authority of God's Word. In congregations that rebel against the authority of elders.
- \* "Postmodernism cultivates anarchy." Chaos and confusion follow when the promoters of change gain entrance into a congregation.
- \* "Postmodernists stress style over substance."
- \* "Postmodernist tenets may seem academic and somewhat arcane, but they are being taught throughout contemporary universities. The new generation of college graduates has been immersed in this kind of thinking."

With the Master, I urge you to, "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation" because of this new, anti-Christian

world view (Matt. 26:41). With Paul, “I tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ” (Phil. 3:18). JHW

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