

Rationalism versus Postmodernism versus Christ

Colossians 2:8-10

Colossians 2:8

- See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:9-10

- For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
- and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Philosophies that threatened early Christians

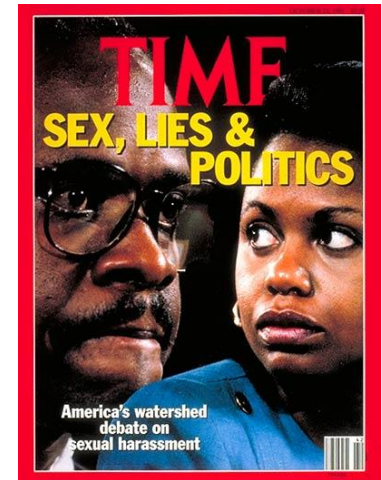
- Jewish mysticism, asceticism
(Colossians 2:20-23)
- Popular Greek Philosophy
- Gnosticism

Three Philosophical Epochs

- ▣ Premodernism (to about 1700)
- ▣ Modernism/Rationalism (1700-1950)
- ▣ Postmodernism (1950 -)

Key Concepts of Postmodernism

- No absolute truth
- Words and language are simply “games.”
- Pluralism – All ideas, are equally good



Josh McDowell - lecturer

- **Primary challenge in the 1960's and early 1970's** – “How do you know that's true”
- **Challenge heard since 1970's** – “How dare you say that Buddhist and Muslims are wrong!”



Some good things about Postmodernism

- Not impressed with dogmatic statements about evolution
- Anti-denominational
- Anti-Pharisee – (emphasis on externals and not the heart)

Promoters of Postmodernism

□ Schools

- *The word “tolerance.”*
- *Not.. “treat kindly,” but “accept as good!*

□ Television, media

- *Attitudes towards marriage, sex, drugs, gambling, materialism, etc.*



Postmodernism in religion

- Uncertainty about the Bible message
- Feelings are emphasized more than analyzing the scripture
- Entertainment-oriented worship



Confronting Postmodernism

- “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

Confronting Postmodernism

- "...how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ," (Ephesians 3:3,4)

Confronting Postmodernism

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

(John 14:15)

Confronting Postmodernism

- “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 7:21)
- “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them...” (Matt. 7:24)

What about 2 Peter 3:16?

- There are some things in them [*the writings of Paul*] that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

The explanation – Milk and Meat

- ▣ “...You need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ... But solid food is for the mature,” (Hebrews 5:12,14)_
- ▣ I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. (1 Cor. 3:2)

A new hermeneutic?

- The bad guy for Postmodernists

CENI

(Command, Example,
Necessary Inference)

Common sense interpretation

- “Command” (Tell me)
- “Example (Show me)
- Necessary inference (Let me “figure it out.”)



1 Corinthians 10:15,16

- ▣ **15** I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.
- ▣ **16** Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?

How do we look to God?

- As humble children looking for any indication of His will for us?
- Or, as defense attorneys trying to find loopholes?
- Or, as prosecutors trying to find fault?

Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”