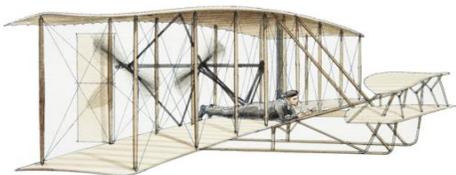
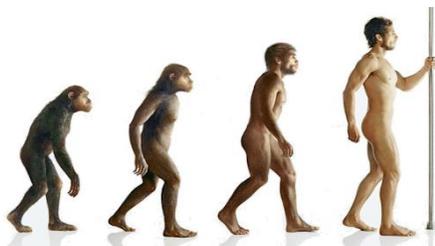
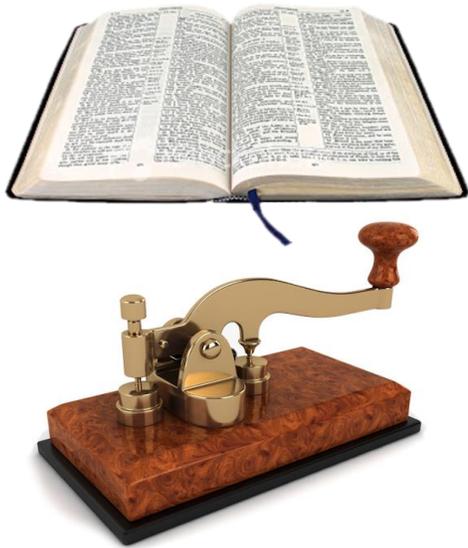


What is Post-Modernism? And is it contagious?



A little history helps when trying to understand Post-Modernism. Let's step back at least 150 years to mid-1800's British and American society. What do we find? The Bible and the Christian worldview are the dominate positions of the culture and the educational establishment. If you asked "What is true? Where do I find truth?" you would likely be pointed to God and to a church – even if there was disagreement on which church. The church and the almost universal belief in God were the recognized source of truth. **This is called a Biblical worldview or Biblicism – sometimes called Pre-Modernism as well.** Unfortunately, the church failed to retain this position as the century ended. The winds of change were blowing.

The industrial revolution had changed the world. New discoveries and inventions, such as the steam engine and the telegraph, made the world seem much smaller. Naturalists and early geologists were documenting the great age of the Earth, and the interconnectedness of life introduced us to the idea of Evolutionary development. Charles Darwin then released his painstakingly researched explanation of Evolution, causing an intellectual earthquake in England and later America. The invention of the automobile... the Wright brothers flew their airplane... was there anything we humans could not do? **The modern age had arrived. Science, discovery, and education quickly replaced the Bible as the source of real usable knowledge and all truth. This is called Modernism.**

Two world wars might seem like a setback, but the world answered with the United Nations and the push of Modernism continued along with claims of what Modernism could accomplish: We will establish World Peace. We will eradicate disease through vaccinations and antibiotics. We will feed the world through better farming. **We will fix all the world's problems through science and reason.**



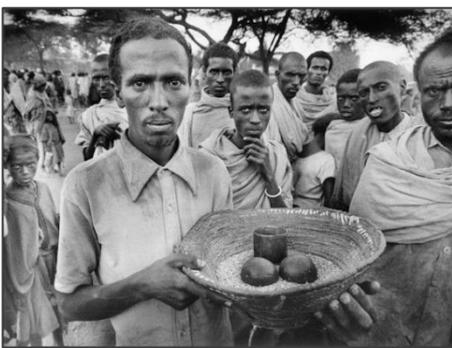
Although we made great advancements through the thinking of Modernism, some cracks in the paradigm grew quite visible. The Soviet Union launched the Sputnik satellite in 1957, escalating the Cold War between the USA and USSR. It didn't feel like the promise of world peace, but the technological advancements of the Space Race and the Cold War delivered enough benefits to keep the Modernism dream alive for most of America.



Many claim that Modernism began to decline in the protests of the sixties and the failures in the Vietnam War.



The educational and intellectual world recognized that Modernism had failed on its promise to solve the world's problem. We solved some big ones, but we still faced a world at war, and nations still struggled with disease and famine. Technology not only failed to solve the world's biggest problems – technology enabled us to bring greater suffering, death and even genocide than ever previously imagined.



Many viewed science and technology as causing more problems than solutions. Clearly, we can't view science and human reason as the source of truth. What will come next? Where will we turn?



If the Bible is no longer the source of truth, and if science and human reason fail as the source of truth, then we face a new challenge. Where do we find truth? **Post-Modernism (comes after Modernism) answers this question by declaring that there is no absolute authority for truth. Each of us needs to find our own truth in this crazy world. What is true for you may not be true for me and yet we can both be right.** This is the unofficial dogma of our culture today. It started in the universities in the 60's, and reached mainstream status as the new century began. God help us all!

Explaining Post-Modernism: The Time Travel Story

The easiest way to illustrate Post-Modernism (PM) is to consider how much daily life changed under the early years of Modernism. If you could go back in a time machine and visit your Great-Great-Grandfather in 1890 and then take him forward 60 years to 1950. Consider how much the world changed at that time, and how amazed he would be:

- ✓ Much more comfortable houses with electricity, air-conditioning, refrigeration and stovetops.
- ✓ Most families have a personal automobile in the driveway. And we have a network of highways connecting the nation.
- ✓ Grandpa might point at a silver flash in the air. “Well, that’s a jet airplane. You can fly across the country in one in just a few hours.” Amazing!
- ✓ And you can pick up a phone and call any city in the world.
- ✓ We are talking about putting a man on the moon in the next few years.

Now jump in the time machine and take Great-Great-Grandpa forward another 60 years. It is amazing how little has actually changed in the second 60 years.

- ✓ Fair enough, computers, the Internet and cell phones all came along and changed quite a lot. This is a huge development. But what else has changed?
- ✓ We live in fundamentally the same homes built with the same materials and powered by fundamentally the same appliances.
- ✓ We travel using the same kinds of devices, cars, trains & planes and travelling roughly the same speeds. Where are the robot driven cars? Why are planes less comfortable, not more?
- ✓ We put a man on the moon, then largely quit manned exploration of our solar system. We even shut down the space shuttle program.
- ✓ We cured Measles but no fundamental breakthroughs since vaccines and antibiotics. The common cold is still very common after many decades.

Great-Great-Grandpa would be astonished at how much daily life has changed by 1960, but few fundamental changes except for computers and cell phones. It was this fundamental disappointment in Modernism that led to the Post-Modern thinking of today.

The Absolutes of Post-Modernism – Ironically There Are Some

Disclaimer: discussing Post-Modernism (PM) causes controversy. Discussing it in terms of its origins and clear ramifications really ticks some people off. Since I am a Bible believer that fundamentally rejects Post-Modernism, this gets even more offensive... But, hey, it's PM, so I have as much a right to declare my "truth" as anyone. And since I am actually correct on this stuff, my efforts are more legitimate and critical.

The Post-Modern agenda is quite specific. It's best summarized by 5 points:

1. **The quest for universal truth is impossible.** Objective, universal truth is a myth. All we ever found were truths that were compelling in their own time. Making the mistake of knowing "truth" is delusional or even dangerous and needs to be stamped out. What is true for you may not be true for me.
2. **Your identity has been forced on you by your culture.** To be free, you must destroy the forced identity and discover who you are inside.
3. **The language of our culture defines what is real.**
4. **Language is created by those in power.**
5. **We must change language to make every culture, lifestyle and idea equal.** Biased language creates comparisons where one choice is preferred. We must redefine words so any idea or lifestyle or choice is equally allowed.

Consider the traditional marriage definition. An institution created by God, where one man and one woman are joined together till death do they part. Our culture is actively seeking to challenge and redefine every word in this definition. What will become of marriage? Will it become "any partnership between any number of people for whatever length of time until one of them changes their mind."

PM thinkers believe that each of us is stuck inside a box forced on us by our parents, our schools, our preachers and by the language and music we grow up under. PM teaches that you need to break through this box - this artificial structure forced on you. You need to search inside yourself and find your "inner truth" and if you complete this process, you will find Post-Modern fulfillment.

Going to school for a traditional education or studying a 2,000 year old book of myths or listening to your parents or pastor will not help you, since you will only be adopting a "truth" that worked for a previous generation. This will only leave you boxed up and screwed up. Ironically, any lifestyle is considered valid except the one where you follow the Bible.