

## **A Biblical World View and Postmodernism**

### **By Loretta Abbott**

The philosophy, or worldview, that is permeating our culture – government, schools, movies, television, and music is known as postmodernism. Sometimes we hear and use a word so much that it becomes benign and loses its full meaning. It ceases to have the negative affect on people or on society that it deserves. Postmodernism is such a word. It has been used so much in our Christian vocabulary that it has become a friendly word, a word that really means very little to the general populace. Ministry leaders are even being confused about the power of the word because it has become a household term. That is a lie! Postmodernism is far from benign or friendly. It is a dangerous worldview and is robbing our culture and our young people and keeping us from seeking and knowing truth.

#### **What is postmodernism?**

- Truth does not exist in any objective sense.
- Instead of “discovering” truth in a “metanarrative” – which is a story (such as the Bible) or ideology (such as Marxism) that presents a unified way of looking at philosophy, religion, art, and science – postmodernism rejects any overarching explanation of what constitutes truth and reality.
- Truth – whether in science, education, or religion – is created by a specific culture or community and is “true” only in and for that culture.
- Individual persons are the product of their cultures. That is, we are not essentially unique individuals created in the image of God; our identities are defined by our culture (African-American, European, Eastern, Western, urban, rural, etc.).
- All thinking is a “social construct.” In other words, what you and I regard as “truths” are simply arbitrary “beliefs we have been conditioned to accept by our society, just as others have been conditioned to accept a completely different set of beliefs.”
- Any system or statement that claims to be objectively true or unfavorably judges the values, beliefs, lifestyle, and truth claims of another culture is a power play, an effort by one culture to dominate other cultures.”

*(McDowell, Josh & Hostetler, Bob, Beyond Belief to Convictions, 2002, pages 12 & 13)*

#### **The Bible teaches there is truth.**

For Christians, this is very troubling, because Jesus Christ said He was the TRUTH. “Jesus, answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:6) “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32) There is TRUTH – His name is JESUS. Truth is NOT objective and it is not arbitrary. If we are going to have a Christian worldview and pass it to those in our sphere of influence, we must believe Jesus is who He said He was. The Bible is clear that teachers are going to be judged by a stricter standard, so we must not allow this postmodern lie to continue to permeate our churches and our society, and rob us of the truth. We must proclaim and teach truth. But to teach truth, we must choose truth and

live in the truth, and to live the truth we must have a Biblical Worldview – living the way the Bible instructs us to live. A person with a Biblical Worldview lives and teaches truth.