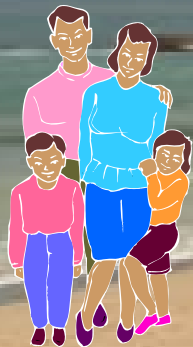




1550 Evangelism II



Section III

Today's Postmodern Culture vs. Biblical Worldviews: How Do We Respond?

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What does the culture think about Christians?

Unfavorable Image

Outsiders 18-29: A lot /A lot or some

■ Antihomosexual	66%	91%
■ Judgmental	57%	87%
■ Hypocritical	54%	85%
■ Too involved in politics	46%	75%
■ Out of touch with reality	37%	72%
■ Old fashioned	28%	78%
■ Insensitive to others	27%	70%
■ Boring	27%	68%
■ Not accepting of other faiths	22%	64%
■ Confusing	19%	61%

Favorable Image

Outsiders 18-29: A lot /A lot or some

■ Teaches same ideas as other religions	28%	82%
■ Good values	26%	76%
■ Friendly	18%	71%
■ A faith you respect	16%	55%
■ Consistently shows love to others	16%	55%
■ Offers hope	19%	54%
■ People you trust	9%	52%
■ Genuine and Real	11%	41%
■ Makes sense	9%	41%
■ Relevant to your life	10%	30%

Kinnaman, David. 2007. *UnChristian- What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity and Why It Matters*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.



The Concept of God



Post-modern Conceptions of God

■ God

- ◆ Is not a personal God
- ◆ *God* is the “Ground of Being”
- ◆ “Ineffable mystery, hiddenness, ever-graciousness”
- ◆ New Age Spirituality, Higher Consciousness



Post-modern Conceptions of God

- **“Not concrete or specific”**
 - **“Shrouded in mystery, wonder, and awe”**
 - **God is “the sum that all is”**
 - **Known only by an interior journey—different for everyone.**
- “We humans are alone and therefore responsible for ourselves, that there is no appeal to a higher power for protection”**



The Matrix: Modern Allegory



The Oracle— a powerful figure representing God. Risk-taker, temporal in insight.



***“The Matrix* also reflects the tendency to consider something spiritual without regard to God, a "spiritless spirituality." The movie emphasizes the "human spirit" and its power, while leaving little, if any, place for God.”**
On the other hand, there is an interaction between the “spirit-world” and the real world.



How Does Your Conception of God Affect How You Live??

- Classical Theism: Creator, savior, personal, all powerful, always present, all knowing, but unaffected by us.==>everything predestined
- Deism: Personal intelligence existing totally apart from the world-doesn't act in the world
- Pantheism: God is Nature--in the world-immanent
- Atheism: Considers the self the Superior Being in the Universe



Open Theism--God Interacts

- **God Responds to His People's Petitions**
 - ◆ Moses in leading his people
 - ◆ Hezekiah's Life 2 Kings 20
- **God Affected/Surprised by His People**
 - ◆ God grieved at man's sin (Gen. 6:6)
 - ◆ "I thought Israel would return to be, but she did not" Jer. 3:7; 32:35



Open Theism- God Interacts

- **God Tests People to See What They Will Do**
 - ◆ Abraham - "Now I know that you fear me" Gen. 22:12
- **God Changes His Mind**
 - ◆ Didn't Destroy Israel and start over: Ex 32
 - ◆ God "changes his mind" Jonah 4:2, Joel 2:13



What is our Practice?

Descriptions

- Transcendent
- Immanent
- Omnipotent
- Omnipresent
- Omniscience

Our Practice

- Agree
 - Works, but not within our lives
 - Powerful, but not for us
 - Present, but ignore Him
 - Knows everything, so why pray



De-construction of “Father”

I believe in God, the Father Almighty
the Creator of heaven and earth, and in
Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

“Here the mystery that I treasure in God begins to be filled with limiting cultural definitions. The word Father is such a human Word—so male, so dated. ... It shouts of the masculinity of The deity, a concept that has been used for thousands of years to Justify the oppression of women by religious institutions”

Sprong, John. *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, Harper Collins, 1999



How Should Christians Respond?

What Has God Done For You?

- **Relate Your Personal Experience With God**
- **Be authentic**

- **Relationship: “the state of being related or interrelated”**
- **Related: “to show or establish logical or causal connection between”**
- **Personal: “carried on between individuals directly”**



Understanding Mosaics

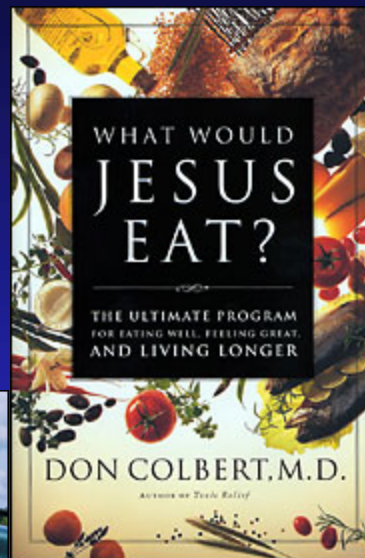
- **Eclectic lifestyles:** Teens experiment with many activities, making their lifestyles more multifaceted and stressful than ever.
- **Nonlinear thinking styles:** Rather than using logic and rationality, teens embrace contradictions and process information in a flexible, adaptable manner.
- **Fluid relationships:** Teen friendships are in a constant state of flux; their heroes and role models change regularly; their network of peers is extraordinarily diverse ethnically; and many experience an up-and-down family life.
- **Cut-and-paste values and personalized spirituality:** Most teens embrace moral pragmatism (that is, “whatever works”) and customized spirituality, drawing on many sources to decide ethical dilemmas and to determine spiritual meaning.
- **Open-minded attitudes:** Teens are not particularly dogmatic about their views and they give others space to chart their own paths — the same space they want for themselves.
- **Technology-fueled expectations:** The Internet and mobile devices like cell phones drive teenagers’ information use and much of their connectivity. The Internet in particular represents an ever-changing and broad-ranging collage of input that fuels much of the nonlinear expectations of teens.



The Concept of Jesus



What About Jesus in Culture?



As a Rebel

I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."



57% Agree
"When Jesus Lived on earth he committed sins like other people."

Barna, G. 2001. *Real Teens*.
Ventura: Regal Books, p128



What do the unchurched think about Jesus?

- “Jesus was a great teacher, a caregiver, a carpenter”
 - “Jesus is someone I respect; ...life is powerful.”
 - “I believe Jesus, historically lived...He was probably spiritually enlightened.”
 - “I hold Jesus to be a wise man....He was a wonderful man..”
 - “Jesus stood for strength and character”
 - “Jesus was kind of like a pirate—a modern thinker who led a rebellion against a religion that was corrupt.”
-
- “The church is an organized religion with a political agenda.”
 - “The church is judgmental and negative.”
 - “The church is dominated by males and oppresses females.”
 - “The church is homophobic.”
 - “The arrogantly claims all other religions are wrong.”
 - “The church is full of fundamentalists who take the whole bible literally.”



How should we respond?

- We must be genuinely interested in the unchurched as individuals.
- We must develop a personal relationship and trust
- We must respect their views and realize there are legitimate questions.

What the Unchurched Would Like to See

- Church as a discussion not a sermon
- The church would respect my intelligence
- The church weren't about the church building
- The church were less programmed
- The church were a loving place
- The church cared for the poor and for the environment
- The church taught more about Jesus

Kimball, Dan. 2007. *They Like Jesus but Not the Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan



What is the Jesus Seminar?



Mission Statement

“The Jesus Seminar was organized under the auspices of the Westar Institute to renew the quest of the historical Jesus and to report the results of its research to more than a handful of gospel specialists. “

http://westarinstitute.org/Jesus_Seminar/jesus_seminar.html



What Are Their Assumptions?

- **Modern Science Makes It Impossible to Believe in Miracles**
- **Therefore, Christianity Has No Detectable Core**
- **Faith Precludes Objective History**
- **Christian Believers are Gullible to the Point of Mental Deficiency, yet Christian Leaders are Devious to the Point of Genius**
- **Christians are Gullible and All Religious Leaders are Liars**
- **Gospel Materials Bear a Specially Heavy Burden of Proof**
- **The Early Christians Felt Free to Put Their Words in the Mouth of Jesus**



What Are Their Assumptions?

- That the historical Jesus and the Jesus of Faith are different
- Jesus never spoke of a final judgment.
- Jesus was witty reformer, not theological, and was a cynic sage
- Only oral tradition was true; longer stories and details were added later
- The gospels assumed to be embellished and fabricated until proven true.



Major Results of the Jesus Seminar So Far

- In *The Five Gospels*, only about 17 - 20 % of the sayings attributed to Jesus are judged authentic.
- In *The Acts of Jesus* only about 16% of the deeds of Jesus are authentic.



Example of Caesar Crossing the Rubicon vs. Bible

- **Caesars Memoirs are silent**
- **None of four writers were eyewitnesses**
- **Writers are at least a generation removed**
- **All accounts based on single eye-witness**
- **No copies available earlier than several hundred years later**
- **We don't know where the Rubicon is**
- **We can't precisely date the crossing**
- **The accounts show a diversity of details**
- **There is a miraculous vision which made up Caesar's mind to cross**

By Permission of Dr. James Baird, OCU



Morality and Ethics



What is the view of Morality and Ethics?

"We are witnessing the development and acceptance of a new moral code in America" George Barna 2008

Morality	Mosaics	Boomers
Profanity in public	64%	19%
Sex outside of marriage	38%	4%
Lying	37%	6%
Gotten drunk	25%	9%
Gossiped	26%	10%
Used pornography	33%	16%
Acts of retaliation	12%	5%

Young Adults and Liberals Struggle with Morality. (Aug. 25, 2008). The Barna Update. Retrieved from<<http://www.barna.org/>>



What is ethical and moral to a postmodern?

- Moral Principles and Truth do not exist objectively.
 - Personal choice is emphasized
 - Resist all attempts to place limits on individual freedom and fulfillment
 - Social transformation is promoted and entails values like equity, tolerance, social justice, global peace, and concern for the environment.
- “ Prevent yourself from slipping into a political attitude which will lead you to think that there is some social goal more important than avoiding cruelty”

Rothfork, Richard “Postmodern Ethics: Richard Rorty and Michael Polanyi”.Southern Humanities Review(Winter, 1995) vol. 29. no. 1, pp.15-34;
<<http://www.cramer.nmt.edu/~rothfork/rorty.html>>



What is ethical and moral to a postmodern?

- Seeks to uncover power structures in cultural expressions and eliminating social oppression from them
- But no objective standards exist to evaluate social ills like the Holocaust or to govern personal conduct from which they arise
- Exposes oppression —educationally students are exposed almost entirely to social injustices or perceived injustices



What is ethical and moral to a postmodern?

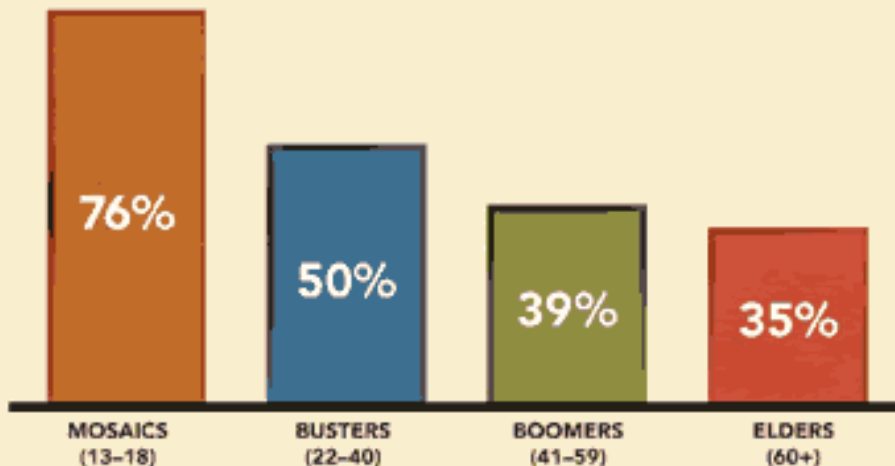
- **Focuses on abstract social issues instead of personal behavior and relationships**
 - ◆ **Promiscuous sex justified as sexual freedom**
 - ◆ **Parental neglect justified as personal growth**
 - ◆ **Personal vices justified as self fulfillment**



What is ethical and moral to a postmodern? Pragmatism

MOSAICS WIDELY EMBRACE THE "WHATEVER WORKS" MORAL PHILOSOPHY

embracing moral pragmatism / do "whatever works"



- “What is right for you may not be right for me”
- “I do what I think is best, not what anyone else thinks is best”
- You are the only one who can determine what is right and wrong”
- “There is no absolute truth.”

Kinnaman, David. 2008 . “The Mosaic Generation: The Mystifying New World of Youth Culture.” *Enrichment Journal*. <http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/200604/200604_028_MosaicGen.cfm>



Typical Moral Permissions

- Provide sexual freedom, but no harassment, and watch out for AIDS.
- Corruption is better than being considered stupid.
- Smoke, but not in the non-smoking section.
- Have no commitments to rules, people, or causes that interfere with personal fulfillment.
- Prostitution is OK, but only in the red-light district.
- Lying is OK, but not during a political campaign.
- Divorce is OK, but only to attain personal fulfillment.
- Infidelity is OK, but only when love has vanished.
- Abortion is OK, but only to further family planning.
- Try anything in the pursuit of self exploration, in search of personal fulfillment.
- Adapt religion to the commitment one wants to make.
- Drink, but not to excess.
- Collect success, fame, and money, at the expense of whomever.
- Have a good time; don't worry about the future.

Krebs, Dr. Raul. *Ethics in Postmodernism*, Universidad Adventista del Plata, Argentina



How are Christians Perceived to Respond?

**Churches Accept &
Love Unconditionally**

**Strongly
Agree**

Pastors	75%
Born-again Christians	47%
Christian churchgoers	41%
Outsiders all ages	20%
Outsiders 16-29	16%

- **87% of young outsiders say Judgmental describes Christians**
- **53% of young Christian say Judgmental describes Christians**

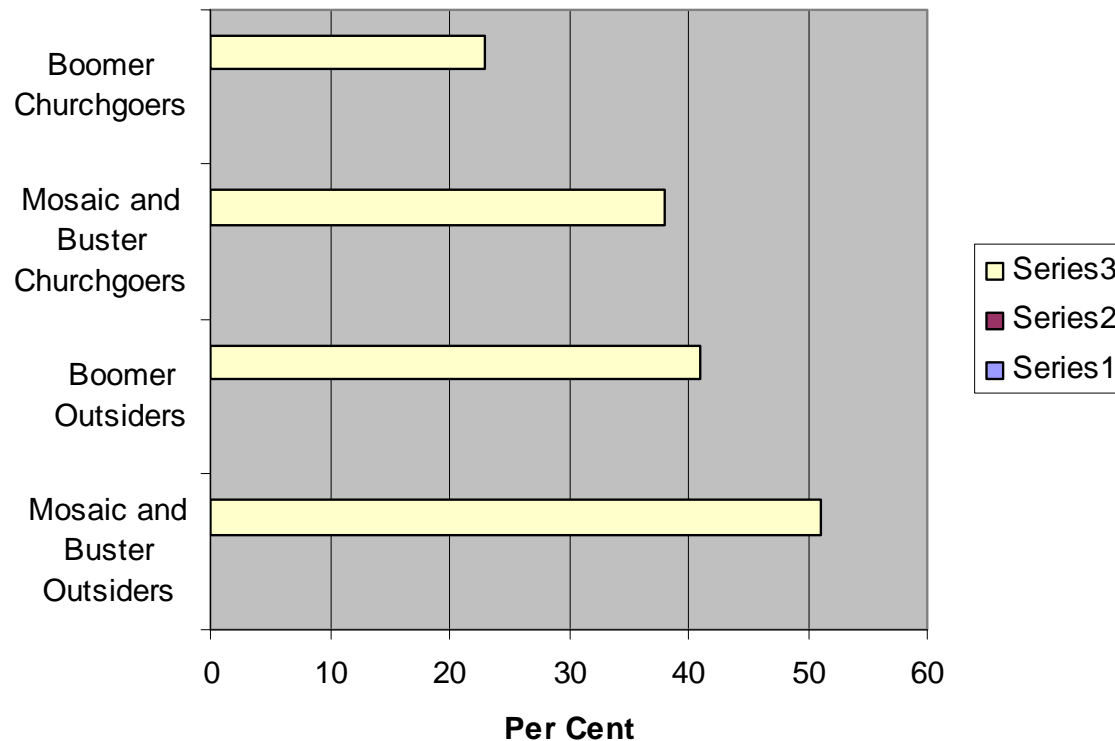
- **Young people are perceptive about motives—constantly bombarded by media**
- **Young people are resistant to simplistic explanations and solutions**

Kinnaman, David. 2007. *UnChristian-What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity and Why it Matters*. Grand Rapids:Baker Books.



How are Christians Perceived to Respond?

MOSAICS and BUSTERS-MORE SKEPTICAL THAT CHURCHES ARE LOVING ENVIROMENTS



Mosaics believe we more focused on condemning people than helping people to be more like Jesus.

Christians often have:

- Wrong Verdicts
- Wrong Timing
- Wrong Motivation
- And Play Favorites



How should we respond?

I Cor.5:12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked man from among you.”

Respect and love those in sin without compromising biblical principals

- “Listen to me”
- “Don’t be so smart”
- “Put yourself in my place”
- “Be genuine”
- “By my friend with no other motives”



Sexuality and Marriage



Sexuality and Marriage

- 50% of Gen-X willing to abolish marriage
- 78% agree one shouldn't get married unless for life
- 45% agree the government should not license marriage
- 43% agree that government should provide cohabiting couples with the same benefits as married couples
- Only 16% agree the main purpose is raise children
- 40% describe those that raise a child out of wedlock as "doing their own thing"

_____ "Gen-X Attitudes Towards Marriage". Jan. 23, 2003 *Daily Policy Digest: Social Issues/Social Issues/(Marriage and Divorce)*
<<http://www.ncpa.org/iss/soc/2003/pd012303e.html?>>



Sexuality and Marriage

Survey of 15-40 Year-olds 1982-2002

- 95% Had Premarital Sex
- 93% Had Sex by Age 30
- 10% of those born in 1940's

**2005 data show median age
at first marriage is just over
25 for women and 27 for men.**

Turned 15 in:	Age in 2002-03	Median age at first premarit al sex
1954-63	55-64	20.4
1964-73	45-54	18.6
1974-83	35-44	18.0
1984-93	25-34	17.3
1994- 2003	15-24	17.6

Source: Public Health Reports

Foster, Sharon. Dec. 19, 2006. "Most Americans have had premarital sex."

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2006-12-19-premarital-sex_x.htm>



What Constitutes (a basis for) Marriage?

Institutional Recognition(Legal/Religious)?

- Matt.10:6 “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’⁷‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,⁸ and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”
- There is usually a separation of religious and legal recognition in most areas



What Constitutes (a basis for) Marriage?

- Institutional Recognition(Legal/Religious)?

Mass. about to alter gay-marriage debate Thirty-seven states and the federal government have laws that refuse to recognize gay marriages. Americans oppose legalizing gay marriage by a 2-1 ratio. Yet gay marriage is closer than ever to becoming a reality.

Posted 12/25/2003 10:16 PM By Dennis Cauchon, USA TODAY

- **(CNN) -- The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has cleared the way for lesbian and gay couples in the state to marry, ruling Tuesday that government attorneys "failed to identify any constitutionally adequate reason" to deny them the right.**

Wednesday, February 4, 2004 Posted: 3:59 PM EST (2059 GMT)



What Constitutes (a basis for) Marriage?

Institutional Recognition(Legal/Religious)?

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT, 110 Stat. 2419 (1996)

"7. Definition of 'marriage' and 'spouse'

"In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word 'marriage' means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife."



New Zealand/Australia Attitudes



Morals Not Important
46% Happy with Civil Unions
39% Happy with legal prostitution
40% Approve of Gay Marriage

Most Australians back same-sex marriage
'June 21, 2007 11:53am

- Poll finds 57 per cent back gay marriage
- Three in four back equal rights for couples
- PM rules out legalizing same-sex wedding



<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,21943027-2,00.html>

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=3597388



What Constitutes (the purpose of) Marriage (and family)?

Purpose

Postmodern definition of family is functional. If homosexual couples provide “an intimate and lasting relationship” they should have the same legal status and rights as any other grouping.

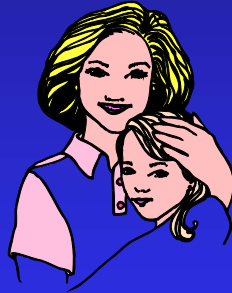
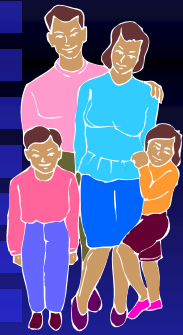
Christians use essential definition: Certain elements are required before a “family” is defined.



Summary of Postmodern Views



**“Any sexual activity is permissible
As long as it is consensual”**



**Family is any
grouping of people
who choose to live
together**



**Marriage is the consensual
contractual agreement between
any two people of any sex**



What is the “Christian” attitude towards homosexuals

- More likely to disapprove of homosexuals than divorce
- 90% of Mosaics and 91% of Busters say Christians are ‘anti-homosexual’
- Only 14% of born again Christians would help HIV/AIDS orphans overseas

Kinnaman. *Ibid.*

- Only 4% of Americans and 10% of Christians address non-politically
- Only 1% pray for homosexuals or donate money

Kimball. *Ibid*

“I knew enough about Jesus to make a clear separation between The hateful, spiteful, unjust things Christians have said or done To me because I am a homosexual. I know this hatred is not a Jesus thing; It is a “man” thing.”

Kimball, *Ibid*



Mosaic and Buster Perspectives

- “I don’t see anything corruptive or destructive about homosexuality. Jesus was about love, not hate. So, homosexuality shouldn’t be something the church hates. It shouldn’t be a religious issue.”

Theological Arguments of Mosaic and Busters on Homosexuality

- Ez. 16:48-49: The sin of Sodom was lack of hospitality and not helping the poor
- Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 : We don’t follow the other “codes”
- Romans 1:26-27: Paul was written about fertility cults who encourage “un-natural” (not those naturally homosexual) homosexuality.
- I Cor. 6:9 and I Tim. 1:10 :This text is referring to male prostitution



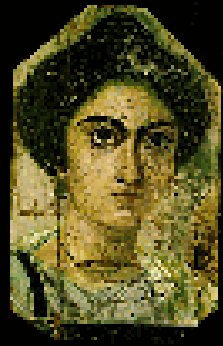
Addressing Homosexuality

- Demonstrate love
- Acknowledge addressing sexuality is complex and needs prayer and discernment
- Start with real conversations
- Treat them with respect
- Remember you transform people not by laws but by transforming hearts
- Be concerned for kids of homosexuals
- Have compassion

DO NOT ABANDON CHRISTIAN PRINCIPALS ON SEXUALITY



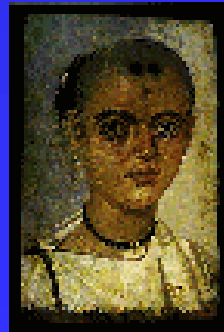
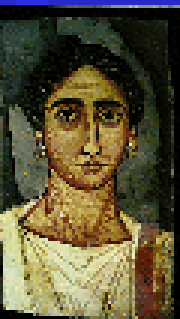
Feminism and the Role of Women



The Role of Women in the Roman World



- The “familia” consisted of all property, wife, married sons and grandsons families, slaves and clients
- All legal rights and powers belonged to the man
 - ◆ “as if the family had been organized as a unit of an army always at war”.
- Man had power
 - ◆ Life and death, absolute power over all in household.
 - ◆ “On account of lightness of mind” all women had guardians, but “charms more potent than law” held power
- Lower classes ran shops, nurses, laborers, skilled craftsman





Postmodern Feminism: 80's-90's

- A search for meaning is pointless, because there isn't one.
- We become free by liberating thoughts from the binary oppositions of male/female, nature/culture, speech/writing.
- Therefore they reject the patriarchal order and the “essential nature of women”
- They accept multiple roles and multiple realities
- It is the individual that should obtain their own “rights” and determine their roles

Postmodern Feminism, Georgen Gilliam and Postmodern Feminism, Dion Peoples



The Changing Role of Women

- One third are in the workforce in all areas except N. Africa and W. Asia
- All but 26 countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 91% of Women and 94% of men are wage and salary workers
- 44% are managers and administrators in U.S.
- 59% are at ministerial/sub-ministerial level in govt.
- 15.9% of military are women.
- As of 1996, 1 in every 8 clergy is female in the U.S.



How do Mosaics and Busters view the church?

“The church is dominated by males and oppresses females”

“I feel the church is very sexist, yet I don’t believe that Jesus was sexist. From what I have observed women in the church basically sit on the sidelines and are only able to work with the children, answer the phones, be secretaries, and serve the men. They seem to have no voice. The church seems pretty much like a boy’s club for adults”

How to We Answer This??

Kimball.Ibid.



The Problem for the Church

- Can women teach in the assembly, be preachers, women elders, deacons, minister leaders, etc.?
- Is what we allow women to do conditioned by our male dominated cultural heritage or is it God revealed?
- If women can be equal leaders in the workplace, why not in church?
- The question is really one of scriptural interpretation—assuming one accepts the scripture as revealed truth.



N. T. Issues

- **Women in marriage and family is affirmed (I Cor. 7; Eph 5:22-31; Col. 3:18-25)**
- **The problem is with I Cor. 14:34-35)**
 - ◆ **As in all the congregations of the saints, ³⁴ women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. ³⁵ If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.**



N.T. Issues

■ And with I Tim 2:8-15

⁸ I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

⁹ I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰ but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

¹¹ A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵ But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.



N.T. Issues

- Were these scriptures culturally (i.e. male and patriarchal) written and directed therefore invalid for all? (as postmodern feminists would say)
- Were they directed at only disorderly and disruptive women and not to be taken for all (i.e. the occasional nature of epistle precludes application to all ages)
- Was an eternal God-directed command intended?



Cultural Restrictions on Women: Roman and Hebrew

ROMAN

“In response to their public gathering and protesting, the statesman and philosopher Cato asked, “ Could you not have asked your own husbands at home?” (Lively, The Founding Fathers of the City 34.10)”

Rabbinic

““out of respect of the congregation, the woman should not read (out loud) in the Law (Torah”) (Megullah 23a). ..it was “shameful” to hear a woman’ voice in public among men (Berakkoth 24a) ...

Schmidt, A. 2004. *“How Christianity Changed the World.”* Grand Rapids: Zondervan



N.T. Issues

- **One problem for not applying them today**
 - ◆ **Paul argues from creation for his directive not from current culture:**
“For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”
 - ◆ **He also argues there are different roles in Eph. 5:23**
- ²³ **For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.**



Jewish Women in N. T.

- **Jesus accepted women as followers and traveling companions (Luke 8:1-3)**
- **Wanted Mary to listen rather than do traditional chores (Luke 10:38-42)**
- **Family of faith supersedes traditional family (Mk 3:34-35)**
- **Women could remain single (Matt. 19:3-12)**
- **Jesus allowed unclean to touch him (Mk 5:25)**
- **John presents five episodes with women (Mary, Jesus mother, the Samaritan woman, Mary and Martha, the women at the cross, and Mary Magdalene)**



Jewish Women in N. T.

- **As prophetess (Luke 2:36-38, Acts 21:9)**
- **As a teacher with her husband (Priscilla and Aquila Acts 18:24-26)**
- **As host for house churches (Mary, mother of John. Acts 12:12-17)**
- **As business woman first convert (Lydia. Acts 16:12-40)**
- **Gospel progressed from Jerusalem (Mary, mother of John) to Joppa (Tabitha) to Philippi (Lydia) to Corinth (Priscilla) to Ephesus (Priscilla) to Thessalonica (few prominent women) to Berea (prominent Greek women) to Athens (Damaris)**



What Shall We Do?

- Realize the postmodern culture is opposed to God directed truth.
- Realize we are to be “in the world, but not of the world”
- Realize postmodern approaches to revelation are anti-religion and assume items are male dominated.
- Carefully re-study scripture to determine cultural items vs. God’s eternal commands.



Success, Money and Materialism



How Is Success Defined Today?



Houses



Business &
Position

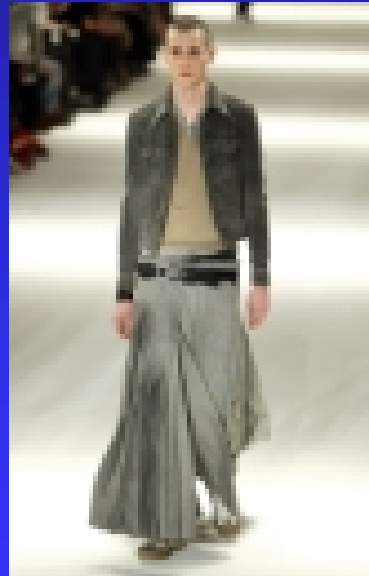
Sept. 2008



What
We
Do



High Office



What We Wear

THINGS!



Money

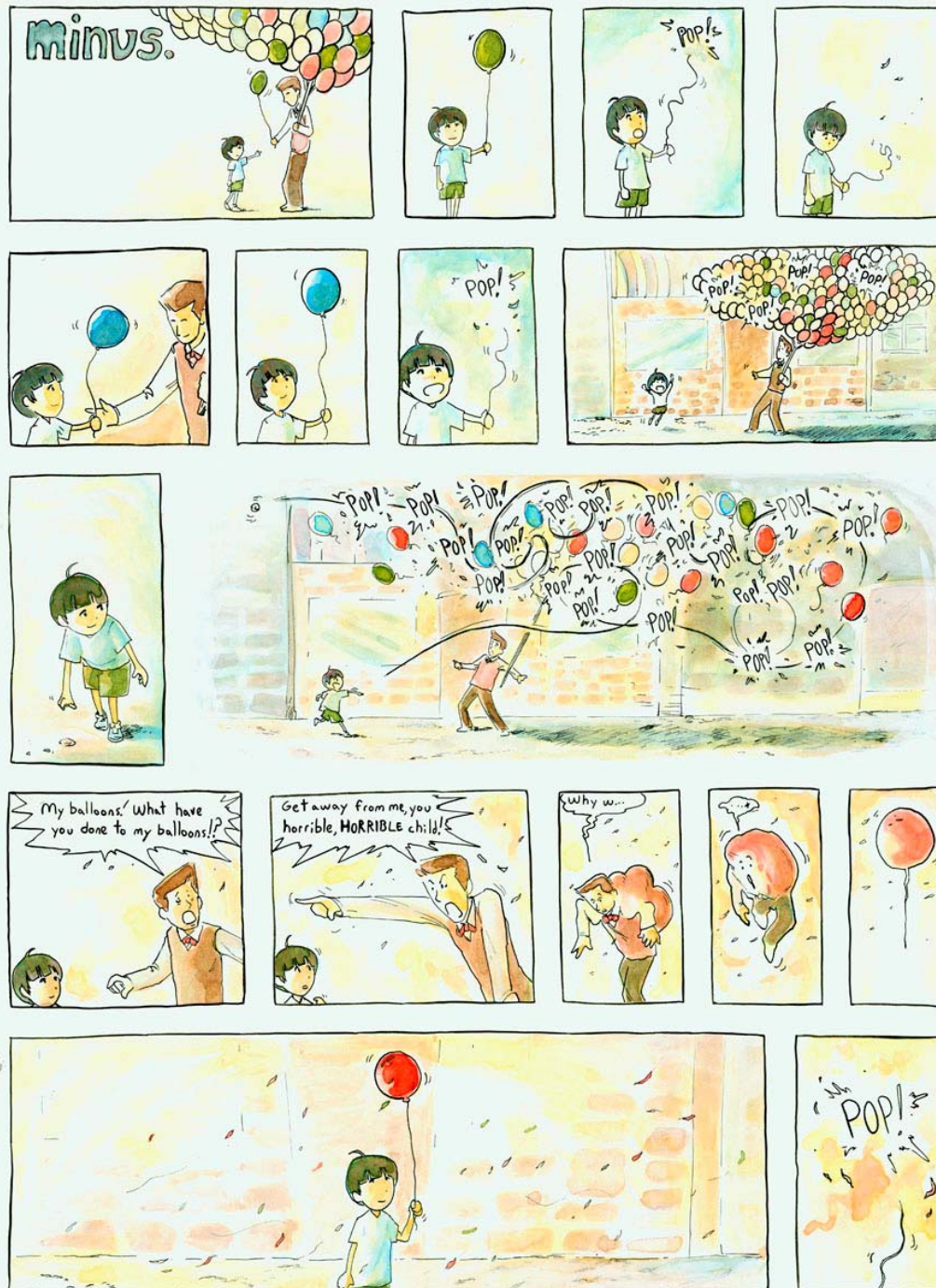
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Postmodern Consumerism

“Consumerism is more of a threat under postmodernism than modernism because it has become a process of self-identification, a process that has to be continually fed by buying more things to define who we are. We now use the products and services to define ourselves—it is all about images and illusions; our reality is recreated on a daily basis by buying things.”

McGregor, Dr. Sue. (June 13, 2003). *“Postmodernism, Consumerism, and A Culture of Peace”*
<<http://www.kon.org/archives/forum/13-2/mcgregor.pdf>>



Minus redefines the purchase in Terms of the “experience” of popping the balloons independent of the malicious intent of the seller



How Consumerism Defines Us

- All societies consume
- What is different today?

**I Consume
To Live**



Sept. 2008

“You Are What You Consume”

“Consumption Defines Marketability”

“We Consume What is Marketable”

Celebrated Active Process

Consumption is Foundational

**I Live to
Consume**



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How Consumerism Defines Us

Basic Myth

We believe that we have certain “needs” that can only be satisfied by consumption.

“Consumerism..is a process of self-identification, where people develop a sense of who they are and what they want to become through consumption”



**I Consume,
Therefore
I Am**

Jessup, Michael. “Truth the First Casualty Of Postmodern Consumerism”, Christian Scholars, Review, 2001,xxx:3, 289-304

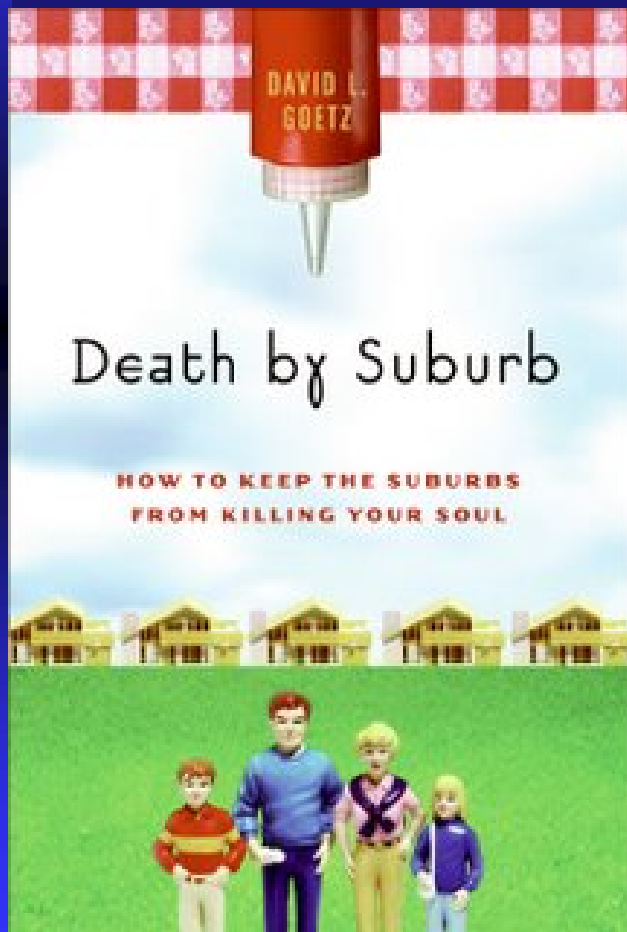
Sept. 2008

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Baudrillard, Jean. “Consumer Society” Selected Writings, Polity Press, 1988



Environmental Toxins



- “I am in control of my life”
- “I am what I do and what I own”
- “I want my neighbor’s life”
- “My life should be easier than it is”
- “What will this relationship do for Me?”
- “I need to get more done in less time.”

Goetz.D. 2006. *Death by Suburbs*. New York: Harper Collins.



How Consumerism Defines Us

It is “a total worldview”

It “affects the way we think and feel the way we love and pray”

It is “a system of Religion”



It is “a belief in what saves us and gives us ultimate meaning”

We view everything.. ourselves, others, Nature, religion—as replaceable

“It is a system of reality”



How Consumerism Defines Us

This is NOT keeping up with the Jones



**We seek
“difference””**

**L’Oreal: “Because I’m worth it”
Cub Med: “The antidote for civilization”
BMW: “The Ultimate Driving Machine”
Nike: “Just Do It”
Burger King: “Have it Your Way”
Visa: It’s Everywhere you want to be”
Miller: “It’s Miller Time”**

We seek “self fulfillment”



What Is Wrong With This Picture?

A fundamental misunderstanding of Man's Nature and His Purpose

Rom1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator

Col.3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

. Matt16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?

Luke 12:15“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”



What Is the Biblical View?

Matt.20:26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—

¹⁰ . ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Gal. 5:1 “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. “

John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

John 8:32: You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.



The Answer Here and Now

Basic Human Needs

Truth

“I am the way, the truth, and the life”

Relationships

“Love Your Neighbor as yourself”

Reproduction & Sex

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife”

Life (Health & Safety)

“Do not worry about your life”



The Answer Hereafter

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”



How Does the Bible Define Success?

Ec 1:12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. **13**I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! **14** I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ec. 12:13 Now all has been heard;
Here is the conclusion of the matter
Fear God and keep his commandments,
For this is the whole duty of man.

Wisdom

Wealth/Honor

Advancement

Great Projects

Wine/Women

Pleasure



How Does the Bible Define Success?



**“It is
finished”**



The View of Biblical Interpretation “The New Hermeneutic”



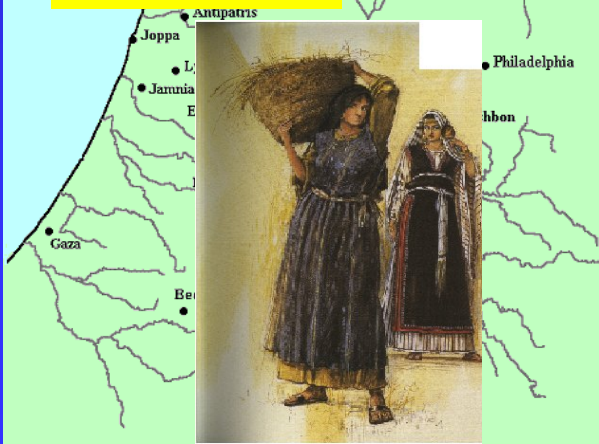
What Is the Problem?

Time

2000+BCE	1000 BCE	500 BCE	0 –100 CE	100-1800 CE	1800-2004 CE
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Language



L
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Geography

Howdy
Partner



Culture

right By Lynn S. Nored



What Is the Problem?

Presuppositions

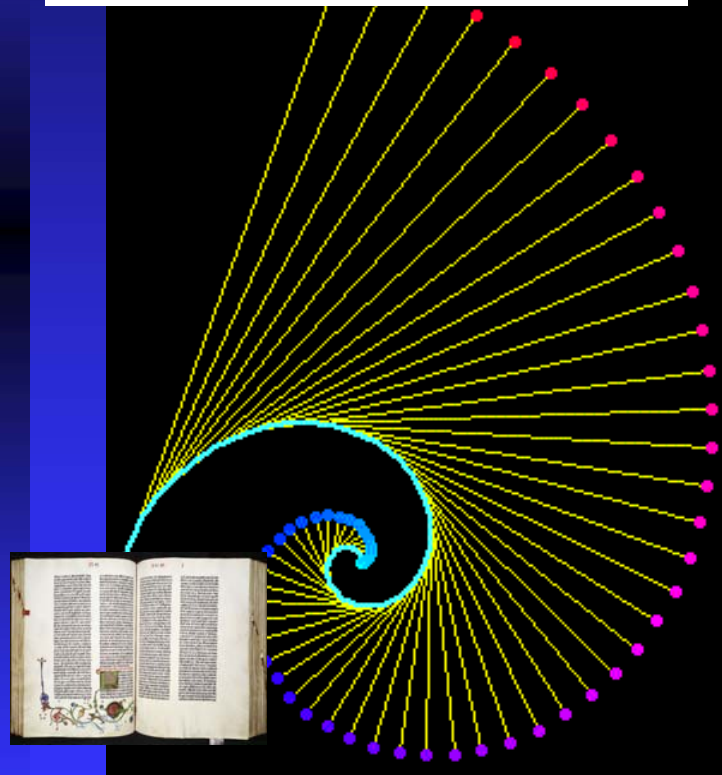


- Ancient Religious Texts
- Revelation From God
- Unified Texts
- Dispensationalism
- Patternism
- Allegorical Approach
- Commands/Examples/inferences
- Love Letters
- Constitution
- Feminist
- Christocentric
- Liberation
- Narratives/Metaphors
- The Church and Salvation



What Is the Problem?

Hermeneutical Spiral



- 1) Impossibility of understanding one part until you understand the whole; Impossibility of understanding the whole without understanding the parts.
- 2) Everyone has a pre-supposition. The text modifies that presupposition. The text modifies that presupposition.....



What Is the Problem?

Postmodern Implications for Interpretation

Modern:

The meaning of the text lays behind it in the mind of the author, the original setting, and the original audience



Postmodern:

The meaning of the text lays in front of the text with the reader himself, not even with the text itself



Summary From 0-1500 CE

- It is notable that for 1500 years the primary methods of biblical interpretation were:
 - ◆ Allegory
 - ◆ Tradition
- The Reformation will see a break and the beginnings of “our” hermeneutic
- We will also see the “new hermeneutic” had it’s beginning in the 1700’s



What Is the History?

The Reformation (1500-1650 CE)



Martin Luther



John Calvin

Klein, et.a.
Introduction
To Biblical
Interpretation,

Word, 1993. Sept

“Sola Scriptura” Scripture Alone

Martin Luther

The Bible Alone- Not
Tradition

Rejected Allegorical-
Use Grammatical /Historical

Christ-centered Focus-
All taught about Christ

Illumination by Holy Spirit-
Each Reader Enabled

John Calvin

The Bible Alone- Not
Tradition

Rejected Allegorical
-Use Grammatical/
Historical

Scripture Centered-Not Christ
Centered

Internal Witness of the Spirit-
Spirit Affirmed Correctness
of Interpretation



What Is the History?

The Reformation (1500-1650 CE)

“Scripture Centered”



Allen &
Hughes. 1988
Discovering
Our Roots.,
ACU,

Huldreich Zwingli

- “Learn God’s will directly from the Bible”
- Bible was a “normative pattern”
- Silence of the Scriptures- must not retain “traditional forms or ceremonies simply on the ground they were not actually forbidden in scriptures”

Olbricht, *Hermeneutics in the Churches of Christ*, Restoration Quarterly, vol 37, no 1



What Is the History?

The Reformation (1500-1650 CE)

“Scripture Centered”



**Regeneration
Of Society**

Heinrich Bullinger

“To preach the Word of
God, IS the Word of God

One Covenant of Grace

Biblical Precedent

**Reason
(Aristotle Logic)**

**Return to
the sources**

**“The church should hold tightly to no other form than
that transferred and established by Lord and the Apostles
and should remain unchanged.”**

Heinrich
Bullinger.
1504-75: Man
of Reconcilia-
tion.<<http://pages.slc.edu/~reformation/three>>



What Is the History?

The Reformation (1500-1650 CE)

Earliest Statement
of
Command, Example, Necessary Inference (CEI)

Edward Dering (approx. 1572)

Conclusions based on Scripture and drawn from
“proportion, or deduction, by consequence..is as
well the Word of God, as that which is an express
command, or example.”



What Is the History?

The Reformation (1500-1650 CE)

Interpretation Focused on the Church

Puritan Purpose

“To achieve.. purifying the visible church:through a purging of popish remnants and the establishments of “apostolic” principles of worship and church order, though the implanted and teaching of reformed doctrine, and though a revival of discipline and evangelical piety in clergy and laity alike.”

Thomas Cartwright

“That is true whatsoever is first, this is False whatsoever, is Later.”

Scripture contained “a true and perfect pattern or platform of of reforming the church”

S

nn

Hughes and Allen, Ibid.; Olbricht, Ibid.



What Is the History?

Post-Reformation (1650-1800CE)

Thomas Reid (1710-1796)

Common sense is regarded as self-evident knowledge, the means by which we know the objects of the external world. These objects are known by us in their true sense and not as copies or ideas.

J.A. ERNESTI (1707-1781)

The “founder of the grammatico-historical school.”
“The only criteria are the use of words, the historical circumstances governing their use, and the authors intent.”

John Locke(1602-1704)

Relied upon inductive reasoning. Only scriptural commands are authoritative. “ Now nothing in worship or discipline can be necessary to Christian communion, but what Christ... have commanded in express words (Basis for Unity)



Restoration Hermeneutics

Alexander Campbell
The Basis for Unity

“Nothing ought to be inculcated upon Christians as articles of faith.. Nor ought anything to be admitted, as of Divine obligation, in their Constitution and managements, but what is expressly enjoined by the authority of our Lord .. And his apostles upon the New Testament Church, either in express terms or approved precedent.”

“That although inference and deductions from Scripture premises, when fairly inferred, may be truly called doctrine of God’s holy word, yet they are not formally binding upon the consciences of Christians..Hence it is evident that no such deductions or inferential truths ought to have a place in the Church’s confession.”



Restoration Hermeneutics

The Acceptance of “Necessary Inference”

Finally Acceptance (by 1949)

Moses Lard, J.W. McGarvey, C.G. Brewer

Brewer: “I do insist that the scriptures must either authorize our practice in specific terms or by example or by necessary inference.”

Camp Two (by 1870)

**Campbell, W Pendleton, Robert Milligan
Rehabilitated deductive logic and therefore
“Necessary inferences”**

Camp One (by 1870)

**David Lipscomb, Tolbert Fanning, Ben Franklin.
“Flatly rejected the validity of necessary inference”**



By 1950's

C of C Hermeneutics

Rationalist/Inductive

1. Command, example, necessary inference
2. The bible consists of “facts and propositional statements” and is divided by “dispensations”
3. The New statement claims “pattern authority for its words and teaching.”
4. The rule is “that where the Scriptures speak we speak, and where the scriptures are silent, we are silent”

Grammatical/Historical/Contextual

1. Meaning of “words, phrases, and sentences, is made out from local use and context”
2. “Meaning is illustrated and confirmed by historical argument.”

Biblical Theology Perspective

1. Understand “life, thought, and practices of the apostolic churches”
2. Find “the central and motivating forces” or “themes” and restore them.
3. Recognize “the importance of rites” in light of the theology

1970's+

Ward and Olbricht
As quoted by
Collier, Ibid.



C of C Hermeneutics

Restoration Hermeneutics

**Forms, structures, and functions
of the Church
(ecclesiology)**

**Christ is the starting point for
theology in the sense “Christ is the
head of the church, the body of
which he is the savior” (Eph 5:24)**

**How one is saved
(soteriology)**



Meanwhile Back at the Ranch

Methodist: Ethical Living, Bible Study and Prayer

Penecostal: Gifts of the Spirit

Holiness: Restoration of Holy Living



The Restoration

Forms, structures
“The Church”

“Salvation”

A Search for
Unity

The Present

Christ
Centered

Solutions for
Personal Struggles

Postmodern

Fragmentation

C of C Hermeneutics

C of C Hermeneutics

??????????



PRESSURES ON MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

FUNCTIONAL

Command/Example/Inference

Church Centered

Members/
The Church

New Hermeneutic

Christ Centered

New
Hermeneutic

Reader
Determined
"Truth"

Post Modernism

Existential
No truth
Relativism
Tolerance
Experience

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RELATIONAL



THE NEW HERMENEUTIC: What is it for churches of Christ?

**Pre-suppositions
(Theological Lens)
Pre-1970's**



**Rational/Functional
Approach**

**T
H
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C
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U
R
C
H**

Christ As Lawgiver

Correct Church Structure

Correct Worship

Correct Discipline

Correct Salvation (Baptism)



THE NEW HERMENEUTIC: What is it for churches of Christ?

**Pre-suppositions
(Theological Lens)
Post 1970**



**Relational/
Emotional
Approach**

**C
H
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S
T**

Family

Fellowshipping Community

Spirit-Led Community

Problem Solving Community

Loving Community



Proposed Hermeneutical Models

“Various hermeneutic models have been proposed.”

(T. Olbricht. 1995. *Hermeneutics in the Churches of Christ*, Restoration Quarterly, Vol. 37,no.1)

■ **Seen as love letter from God** God”Olbricht, T. (CSC. 1989)
Restoration Quarterly, Vol.37, no.1. [Note- not his major proposal]

■ **Use canonical model:larger theological context.**
(Collier. G. 1995 *Standing Under Scripture*, www.onlinebibleclass.com)

■ **Scripture as narrative**(Thomas Olbricht, CSC, 1989,p7)

■ **Intentional theology in creation, Christ, and consummation** (Collier, G. *Standing Under Scripture*,<www.onlinebibleclass.com>) 1995)

Purpose, principal, and precedent (Smith, F 2002 .*The Cultural Church*, 20th Century Christian.



What IS an Acceptable Hermeneutic?

Pray Before and Throughout Your Study

- **Exegesis**
 - ◆ Choose a good translation and compare with other translations
 - ◆ Determine the genre(law, poetry, narrative, etc.)
- **Examine the overall historical context**
 - ◆ Examine the overall literary context (word, verse, paragraph, chapter, book)
 - ◆ Examine the historical-cultural background
 - ◆ Determine the meaning in its context



What IS an Acceptable Hermeneutic?

■ Application

- ◆ Recognize and put aside your pre-suppositions
- ◆ Recognize there are functional and relational concepts as well as rational and emotion “heart” related concepts
- ◆ Determine what the text has to do with theological issues like God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, etc.



What IS an Acceptable Hermeneutic?

- Ask the following questions:
 - ◆ What hope or encouragement can I draw from this passage?
 - ◆ What are the examples that have theological significance that I need to imitate?
 - ◆ What are the commands that I need to follow?
 - ◆ What did the text tell it's audience to do?
 - ◆ What biblical principles lay behind this call?
 - ◆ How does this fit with other biblical teaching?
 - ◆ How do this translate to our culture?



PRESSURES ON MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Hermeneutics IS a Fellowship Issue

1. There must be a consensus on matters of faith
2. We must recognize we will differ
3. Recognize that “God calls us in Diversity”
4. We must overcome suspicion and distrust.

Post Modernism

Hermeneutic
War

Old Hermeneutic

New Hermeneutics

5. Keep peace and unity primary over Personal preferences
6. Conflict defused “depends upon the wisdom of the leaders “

Smith, G. The Cultural Church, 20th Century Christian, 1992

Dobbs, J. *Finding Peace in the Hermeneutic War Within Churches of Christ*,

www.123jesus.com/Sermons

Can Churches Survive Conflict, Yes But Leadership is Crucial. Christian Chronicle, April 2002