

ONTARIO WINTER SCHOOL

PRESERVING THE TRUTH IN THE POST-MODERN AGE

WHAT WE HAVE SEEN SO FAR

- The last days are “dangerous times”
- “Attitudes of insanity” are abroad
- We must “hold fast” our unique Truth
- Being deceived is a distinct possibility
- Eternal life depends on us believing God, thinking like and behaving like God
- Today.....the Postmodernism Worldview

A WORLDVIEW

- A worldview is a newly fashionable term
- It means simply -the paradigm, or framework through which we understand the world
- Our worldview is our personal concept , interpretation or philosophy about the meaning and direction of life
- We must derive our worldview from the Bible , not from the conventional wisdom of men.

POSTMODERNISM

- The current prevailing world view (especially in the Western world) is postmodernism
- It is the underlying basis of academia (education) , is promoted in the media and underpins much government policy.
- Most people could not define it, or may not even realize they believe most of it
- People accept it's concepts because it appeals to the natural human mind.

WHY MUST WE DISCERN IT

Postmodernism challenges our Bible values

- It ignores God the Creator as being in control
- It displaces the Bible as the source of moral authority , any purpose and true doctrine
- It preaches totally different morals to God's
- It impacts on our personal life
- It impacts our ecclesial life
- It sounds so reasonable...but so did the serpent!.

3 MAJOR ERAS OF HUMAN THINKING

1. Pre-modern- From the Dark Ages until 1789
 - Universal belief in God, spirit world, devil etc
 - Truth was controlled, believe the Church or die. Kings and Aristocracy made all the decisions
 - The Renaissance, then printing ,making Bibles available – led to the Reformation
 - The rise of Philosophers- Kant, Rosseau , Voltaire etc
 - The French Revolution was the second great earthquake in human thinking – working miracles of change in society

3 ERAS OF MODERN THINKING

2. Modernism (called Humanism) – from 1789-1989

- The Enlightenment, the Reformation, Democracy
- Philosophers, Higher critics, Darwin, Marx , Engels, Freud
- A misplaced faith in human reason and science
- Truth is now discovered by human intelligence and reason , aided by science. God's claims are ignored.
- A tendency to question authority and established beliefs
- Man is alone and must solve his own problems
- God is relegated (at best) to a disinterested spectator (Deism)

MODERNISM (also called Humanism)

**“MODERNISM IS TYPICALLY DEFINED AS THE
CONDITION THAT BEGINS WHEN PEOPLE
REALIZE GOD IS TRULY DEAD, AND WE ARE
THEREFORE ON OUR OWN.”**

PHILLIP E. JOHNSON

© Lifehack Quotes

THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANISM

- There is no God nor accountability, man is on his own
- All men and women are equal and have right to **the good life** and their human rights
- Life is only about the **good life** we have now
- Man must use human reason , science and his natural goodness to resolve the world's problems
- Men must be freed from the oppressions of religion and imposed authority
- Morals, ethics and values are relative and subjective.

THE OUTCOMES

- **MY RIGHTS, ITS ALL ABOUT ME, DEMANDS FOR EQUALITY, POLITICAL CORRECTNESS, LABELLING OF OPPONENTS**

THE WAY HUMANISM CHANGED THE WORLDVIEW

- God was dismissed as not existing or irrelevant
- Faith in science and reason replaced faith in God.
- There is no absolute right or wrong anymore
- The morals of society are reduced to ..you can do whatever you like, providing you don't infringe someone else's rights
- Its all about you..the ME generation arrived
- **BUT HUMANISM LARGELY FAILED so it modified itself into postmodernism**

THE OUTCOME OF HUMANISM



The latter part of the Twentieth Century

- After 2 horrific world wars , the Holocaust and the atom bomb , men lost faith in God , religion and the old class based order.
- Empires collapsed, dynasties died out, many nations sought independence
- In the sixties the age of social revolution began – radical music and art, new open morals
- Peace and civil rights movements, anti-Vietnam war protests and civil unrest took centre stage (remember- “we shall overcome”)
- Human rights and equality were fought for (“what about me – it isn't fair – I want my share”)
- Humanism/modernism became the worldview

3 MAJOR ERAS OF HUMAN THINKING

3. Postmodernism –from about 1989- until now

- Extended many concepts of Humanism
- Was needed because some concepts had failed
- Truth does not exist- now you create your own
- All concepts of truth are equally valid
- **Truth will change** as situations change
- It is wrong to criticize someone else's Truth.
- Truth is whatever works for you or your group , or makes you feel good

POSTMODERNISM

- Post modernity , in contrast to modernism, **rejects any notion of objective truth** and insists that the only absolute in the universe is that there are no absolutes. **Tolerance is the supreme virtue and exclusivity the supreme vice** . Truth is not grounded in reality or in any authoritative “text” but is simply constructed by the mind of the individual or society.
- (Kruger)

**Post Modernist Os Guinness wrote ..in
his book “Fit Bodies, Fit Minds”**

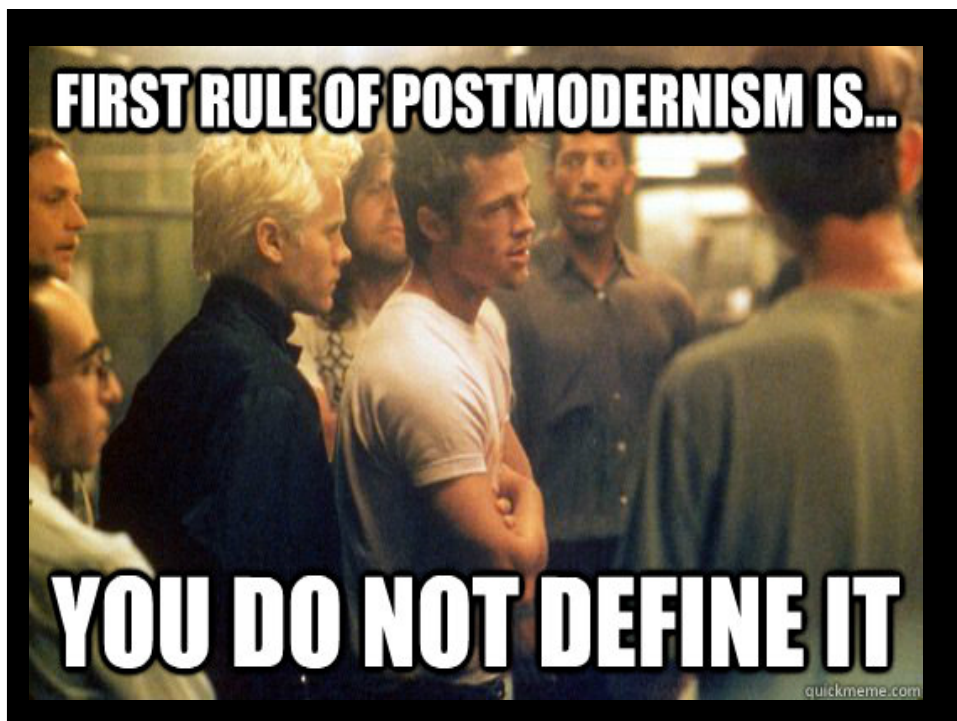
Where Modernism (Humanism) was a
manifesto of human self-confidence
and self congratulation, Post
modernism is a confession of modesty ,
if not despair.

Os Guinness- (Book-Fit bodies-Fit minds)

- There is no truth, only many truths
- There are no principles, only preferences
- There is no grand reason, only reasons
- There is no grand narrative of human progress, only countless stories of where people and their cultures are now.

Post Modernism

- The true believer is the real danger
- The real threat is not error, but intolerance
- The great insight of our times is said to be openness and relativism (what it means to me)
- Post Modernism is an extreme form of relativism (my perception is all that matters)
- Os Guinness (Fit bodies, Fit minds)



POSTMODERNISM TYPICALLY DEFIES CONFORMITY

- Truth is subjective -what you feel/what you think is right
- Art , literature , history and words can be interpreted as you see fit...you look for the meaning **you want to see.**
- Architecture defies existing building wisdom

THE CHANGING STYLES

POSTMODERNIST ARCHITECTURE

MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE



“Less is
MORE.”

POSTMODERNIST ARCHITECTURE



“Less is
A BORE.”

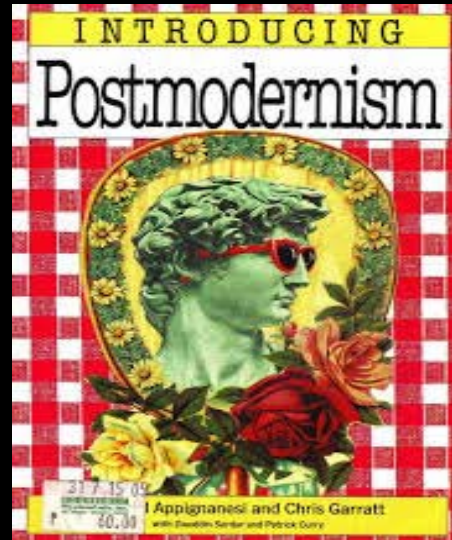
POSTMODERN ARCHITECTURE



POST MODERN ART



POSTMODERN ART



POST MODERN ART- You decide !



Postmodern sculpture



A CONSTANTLY MOVING TARGET



MEMES & FUNNY PICS FRABZ.COM

REWRITING HISTORY

- History is represented to show that the world was mad in the past , that religious authority and aristocratic power led us to wars, horrors, genocide, persecutions, slavery, xenophobia racism and the suppression of women.
- **Example** – how the Crusades are now viewed.
- Once seen as a glorious quest by Christians to free the Holy Land from Moslems- now portrayed as barbaric war crimes.
- Stolen generations in Australia

DECONSTRUCTIONALISM

The method of interpreting the Bible, history , information or any facts to suit my own worldview

POSTMODERNISM

Didn't You Know That Words Only Mean What I Want Them To Mean.

POSTMODERNISM DEFINED

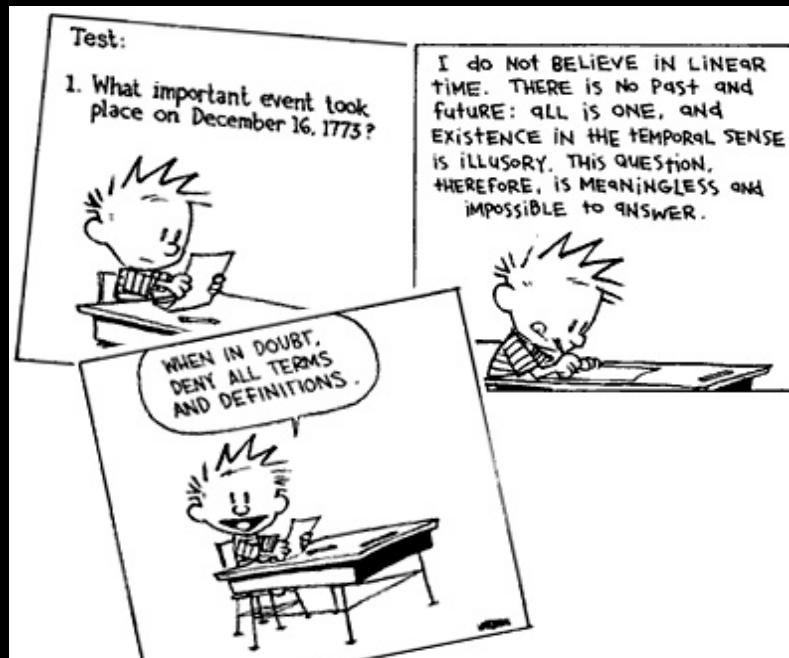
- Truth is subjective (what you feel/think matters)
- Art , literature and language can be interpreted as you see fit...you look for the meaning you want to see.
- Every opinion and culture is equally valid (eg multiculturalism)
- Tolerance is the supreme virtue
- Intolerance or claims to own or define Truth are arrogant and misguided

POSTMODERN METHODS

- All texts can be interpreted as you want
- Feelings are the deciding factor (I think/I feel)
- Ignore the writers intent- how does it feel for you ? (dangerous policy when its God's Word)
- History can and should be rewritten (as it is probably only been recorded to control us)
- History is now judged by current norms
- The push for women speakers in the brotherhood resulted from this movement
- And God also is now judged by modern values

HOW POST MODERNISM WORKS

- Your truth is whatever solves your problems.. or makes you feel good.
- Truth comes from your own experience , not from God
- It is no longer about “ what hath God said’ or “ I know this ” ..its about how I feel.
- Every society or culture has its own valid truth
- Aboriginal dreamtime, the Moslem prophet , Buddhism etc. are also valid truths .. Each must be accepted and not questioned.
- **On this premise many abhorrent regimes could be excused**
- Hitler’s Nazi Aryan supremacy/ Holocaust , Communists , the IRA bombers , Al Qaida , ISIS and Pol Pot all followed their view of truth implicitly with drastic consequences.



POSTMODERNISM INVADES RELIGION

- Churches resort to **marketing strategies** to address declining attendances—they find out what people want and provide that
- Doctrine is dumbed down, exclusive names are dropped- critical topics are set aside(sin, morals, repentance) in favor of meeting human needs
- They provide entertainment, support groups, social life, drama spectacles and modern music
- Religion tries to give people what they think they want, not what they actually need.
- Seeker sensitive churches will survive

DO CHRISTADELPHIANS DO THE SAME?

1. Hide the name Christadelphian from public
2. Remove the word ecclesia , become a church
3. Introduce modern music, drama and psychology in lieu of sound exposition
4. Ecclesias run businesses under the guise of preaching
5. Focus on needs, unity , love and forgiveness at the expense of God's righteousness and laws.
6. Resist any move to tackle error as divisive

HOW POSTMODERNISM HAS AFFECTED CHRISTADELPHIA

- Feelings and human needs are given credence over God's principles
- The internet treats all opinions as of equal value , while many are quite wrong
- Danger of the "I feel" mindset...a small step to claims of direct spirit guidance
- A rejection of "religion" and formal organizational structure
- An attitude that rejects any authority or rules
- Disinclination to be members of an ecclesia (floaters)
- Toleration of error under the banner of love

REJECTION OF AUTHORITY

Postmoderns reject rules and restrictions ,they demand rights



One of the very basic ideas of Post-Modernism is rejection of arbitrary power structures. Different people are sensitive to different kinds of power structures.

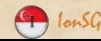
(Larry Wall)

izquotes.com

POSTMODERNISM

All truth is relative.*

***(Except this statement.)**



THE CHANGING WORLD

Increasingly, citizens of all ages, but particularly the young, are rejecting conventional structures, like religions , political parties and trade unions in favour of a less hierarchical, more participatory system, modelled in many ways on the culture of the Web.

(New York Times)

Online attendance???

POST MODERNISM DEMANDS **CHANGE**

Post Modernism is a change-or-be-changed world. The word is out : reinvent yourself for the 21st century or die! Some would rather die than change.....

(Leonard Sweet-Cultural historian)

SIGNS OF POSTMODERN THINKING

- **Seeker sensitive approach, extreme consultation, marketing to wants**
- **For the time will come when they**
- **will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having ITCHING EARS; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (2Tim 4 v3-4)**



News Story – “Articles of Faith”

A Modern Survival Plan

He said churches were facing challenges from a society less willing to assimilate into an institution
 “They need to empower congregations rather than tell them what to do”.

“A fundamental challenge is to turn spectators into participators”.

“**We have to scratch where people ITCH**”

SIGNS OF POSTMODERN THINKING

- Religion becomes a cafeteria style approach- lay out lots of goodies – you choose (support) only those you like.
- Tendency to talk on social needs...not so much on sin, death , or righteous judgments to come
- Feel good culture...you have a right to be happy- God loves you any way you are .
- We become the centre of the universe

MEN SHALL BE LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES

THE
AGE OF
SELFIES.



INCLUSIVITY- BILLY GRAHAM

- “Whether people come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world or the non believing world, they are members of the body of Christ because they have been called by God. They may not know the name of Jesus , but they know in their hearts that they need something they do not have , and they turn to the only light they have **and I think that they are saved** and are going to be with us in Heaven “

INCLUSIVITY –POPE FRANCIS

- “**No distinctions** matter to God. How nice that brothers are united, that brothers pray together. How nice to see that nobody negotiates their history on the path of faith-that we are diverse , but that we want to be , and are already beginning to be **a reconciled diversity**”
- **Pope Francis at an Ecumenical Gathering**
- Pope Francis is “Walking Ecumenism” (Kruse Pastor of the Lutheran Church in Rome)

BE YE SEPARATE- Bro Harry Tennant

- We are not one church among many, we are separate from them. We have no part or lot with them. There are next to no similarities over things that matter. How God judges them is not our concern. They do not believe in the same God as us , the same Jesus Christ, nature of man, salvation, baptism, atonement or in the same kingdom of God. They do not share the same beliefs regarding warfare, politics, voting or belief in the devil. In fact they do not believe the same Bible.

SPIRITS OF INSANITY WORKING MIRACLES

Close Friend of Pope Francis (Le Serna) said this

- He wont change doctrine. What he will do is return the Church to its true doctrine – the one that it has forgotten.- **the one that puts man back in the center.**
- For too long the Church has put sin in the center.
- I think the Church must apologise ..to any gay person it offended”. Pope Francis 2016

SPIRITS OF INSANITY WORKING MIRACLES

- By putting the suffering of man and his relationship to God back in the center-those harsh attitudes toward homosexuality, divorce and other things **will start to change** .
- Article on Pope Francis –National Geographic August 2015

HOW BIBLE TRUTH IS CHANGED

- NOVEMBER 2014..THE POPE addressing the Pontifical Academy of Sciences- said this ...

The Big Bang and evolution theories are real and essential to the understanding of God.

The theory of evolution is not incompatible with the existence of a Creator

When we read about the creation in Genesis , we run the risk of imagining God was a magician, with a magic wand able to do everything , but that is not so .

- Jehovah's Witnesses , once firm creationists ...now teach that the 6 days were actually very long periods of time

HOW POST MODERNISM IS PROJECTED

- The media- constantly attacking religion and old values.
- Television and movies (attack values-promote “new” moralities)
- Education curriculum- disguised as child safety/anti bullying
- Government policy and legislation –public apologies to LGBTBIQ community
- Society norms, workplace culture of tolerance
- Social media and networking
- Environmental campaigns
- Civil rights and liberties
- Equal opportunity focus
- Multiculturalism
- Promotion of relevance and tolerance as “Christian values”
- Rewriting history to reflect the post modern agenda.

HOW DOES POSTMODERNISM GET INTO PEOPLES THINKING ?

- Print/TV media policy – is humanist based
- Readily accessible opinions on the internet
- It underpins the themes promoted in most movies and novels
- Infiltration of the education curriculum
- There is a powerful and mocking academic attitude against God in universities
- Facebook and twitter opinions spread fast
- Ex Christadelphians poison young minds
- Accepting incorrect psychological theories

SIGNS OF POSTMODERN THINKING

- The tendency to adopt modern psychological premises – we are all victims of our upbringing
- Victim mentality, blame others for our sins
- What the Bible calls sin- we can now label as sickness, disorders , phobias and syndromes .
- This is more than semantics – it's a fundamental shift from believing – “in my flesh dwells no good thing- sin is present with me” .
- THE BIBLE SAYS- We are prone to sin and in need of repentance and forgiveness.

SIGNS OF POSTMODERN THINKING IN OUR MIDST

- Avoiding challenging lecture titles- avoid criticizing the Catholic Apostasy and their doctrines.
- Avoiding condemning bad morals –talk about love
- Use liberal translations (Message Bible, Living Bible) which contain many biased human interpretations
- Trying to appear socially connected /charity works
- Preaching via fun runs/clean up days / sponsoring sport
- Focus on testimonies (personal experiences) rather than teaching sound and distinctive doctrine
- Moving from educating to entertaining people
- Inviting and respecting all opinions as being of equal value –whether accurate or even plainly ignorant
- Ecumenical spirit , focus on similarities not differences

IMPACTS OF POST MODERNISM

- There is no absolute Truth
- Society is in a state of constant change in its morals, values and norms
- Each culture and group can and should decide their own values and morals
- There is little value to learn from history
- The individual decides the relevance of ideas
- Education is not about learning truths or facts – rather it is to give skills to find information, or to acquire wealth or fame

IMPACTS OF POST MODERNISM

- The younger generation learn by discussing, debating and challenging, and then decide for themselves what to accept or reject
- Organised religion is seen as oppressive, having a destructive history and as ignoring science
- Individuals have the right to develop their own form of spirituality
- Tolerance of other's decisions is critical

BUT GOD SAYS

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man,
but the ends thereof are the ways of death.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Once school supported the home and religion- but not any more !
- **Example- Australia's Safe Schools Program**
- "it was announced that boys could wear school dresses next year"
- Toilets are becoming multi-sexual
- "Only you know whether you are a boy or a girl- no one can tell you"
- Sexual identity changes like the weather does
- "Parents don't have the power to shut this down-when people complain we calmly say- You know what -we are doing it anyway- tough luck" (Safe Schools Project Manager)

Sharpening the minds of
God's heritage

And thou shalt
teach them
diligently unto
thy children,
and shall talk of
them when
thou sittest in
thy house...



THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

**And these words, which I command thee
this day, shall be in thine heart:
And thou shalt teach them diligently unto
thy children, and shalt talk of them when
thou sittest in thine house, and when thou
walkest by the way, and when thou liest
down, and when thou risest up.**

Deut. 6:6-7

ISSUES OUR CHILDREN WILL RAISE

- Are we Christadelphians really the only religion God works with?
- How can we say all the other sincere people out there will be ignored by God?
- Isn't love the most important thing in any relationship, not gender.
- People have a right to be happy- so remarriage or marrying out of the Truth is not so bad.

ISSUES OUR CHILDREN FACE

- How long can we go on denying that science has all the answers about origins ?
- Does doctrine really matter to God as much as we say it does?
- The tendency to re-interpret the scripture to fit the world's view on morals and practice .
- The failure of ecclesias to act on clear breaches of scripture (eg marriage to non- believers) .
- The SBNR syndrome – be a good person but don't stress about doctrine or commitment

OUR BIBLE BASED WORLDVIEW

- There is a Creator God, who controls all
- There is only one saving Truth and one hope
- God will soon judge the world by His righteousness , not their warped ideals
- God has absolute morals and does not change
- Only God can solve the world's problems
- God's Truth will be imposed for mankind's benefit (Isa 2v1-4)- the law from Zion

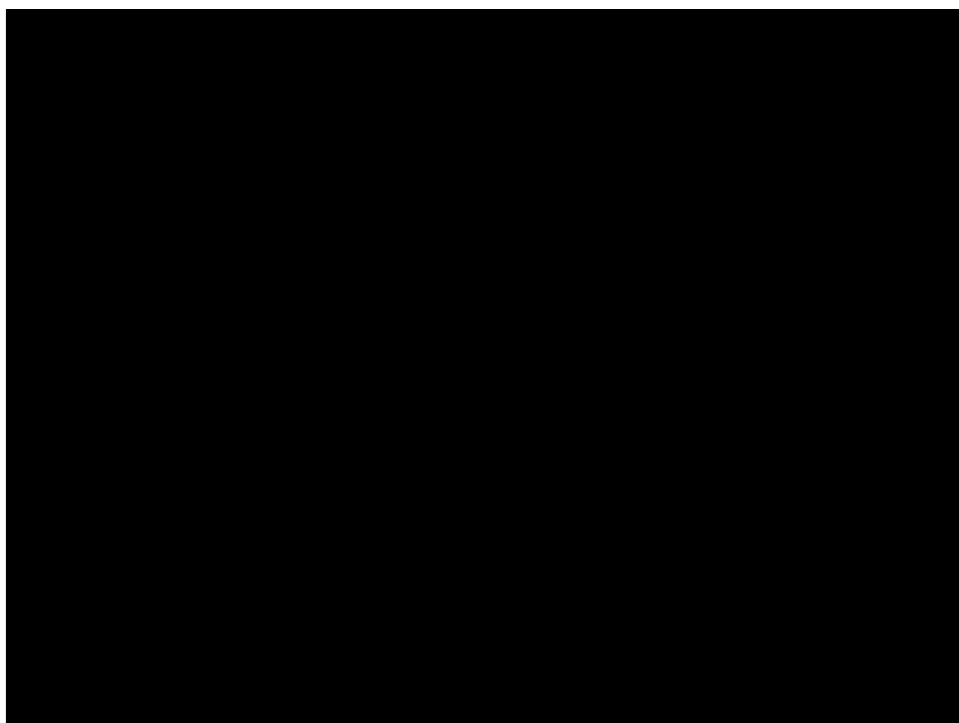
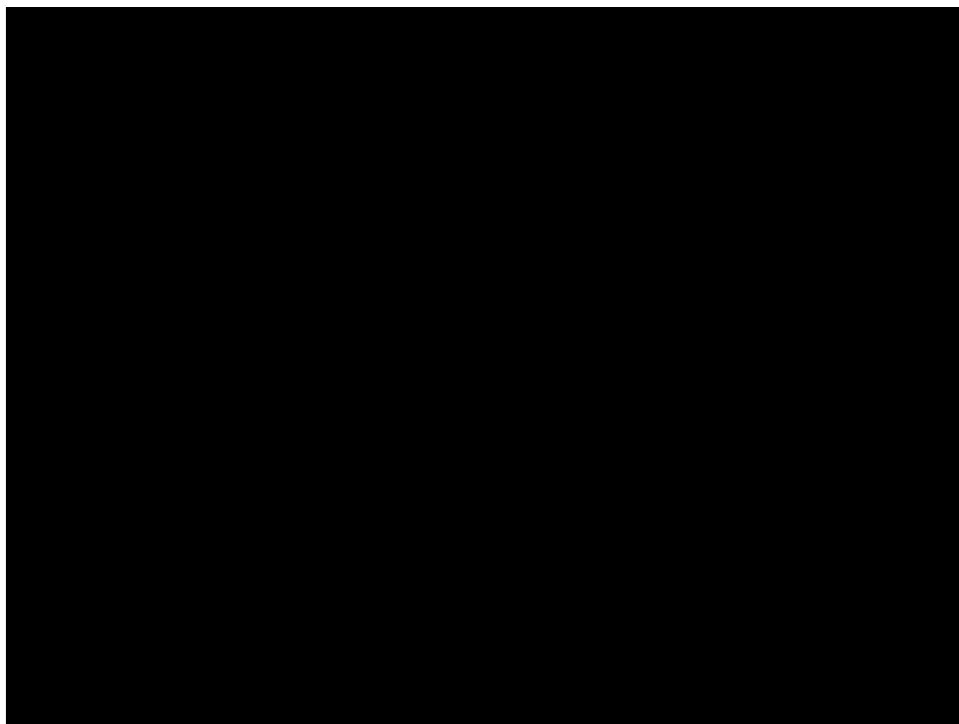
Tangible strategies

- Restrict exposure to the postmodern media
- Remain sensitive to God's thinking- by regularly consulting His Word with an accepting mind –even if it makes us isolated
- Challenge the subtle manifestations of human thinking that arise in the ecclesia .
- Reinforce Divine Truth and morality
- Refuse to compromise with unscriptural acts

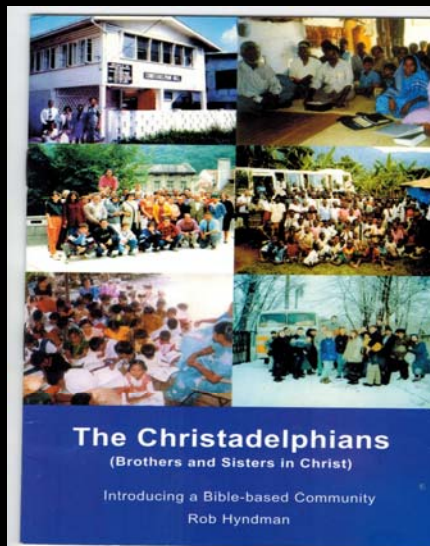
THE BIBLE - OR THE WISDOM OF THIS PERISHING WORLD ?

That your faith should not
stand in the wisdom of men,
but in the power of God.

(1Cor 2:5)



A VICTIM OF POST MODERNISM



Bro Rob
Hyndman
- writer of books
on the Bible and
whose teaching
notes are still
widely used in
mission areas

A CHRISTADELPHIAN RESIGNS

- He wrote...*"this week I resigned from the Christadelphian faith after 30 years...'I resigned because I **no longer believe in God**, I am not even sure there is a God..Perhaps there is , but He is not who I once thought he was. "*
- Of the Bible he said..*"Yes there was some wisdom there, but the attitudes to women and foreigners it describes, sometimes commands, were not worthy of the God I once believed in."*

A CHRISTADELPHIAN RESIGNS

- **This widely published resignation is alarming and coming from one so well versed and undermines the faith of many. He is not alone in this aberration .**
- Especially concerning in this published statement is the rejection of the God of the Bible as **unacceptable** to our modern human values.

A CHRISTADELPHIAN RESIGNS

Instead of accepting the Eternal , all powerful Creator God **as He is** revealed to us , and conforming our values to His ...we now find God is judged by the Post modern/ humanistic values of today.

God is rejected as being harsh, chauvinistic and cruel- or even perhaps non existent..

CHANGING GOD TO FIT ?

- God reveals himself as a Father to us
- God chose male leaders , priests, teachers and apostles
- The Bible is dominated by male examples, male heroes and has all male writers
- The modern world, with its view of absolute equality , either rejects God as misogynist , or re-creates Him as a “Mother God”

IS
TRUTH
RELATIVE ?



POSTMODERNISM

But officer, you're really not getting this postmodernism thing. Look, I realize their truth might be I don't have an account in that bank. But you see, they can't say that because, to me, the truth is that I actually do.

Ways to fight post modern thought

- Show how illogical and impossible it is



Calvin and Hobbes

