



Session 1

Postmodernism and the Need for Worldview Analysis

Postmodernism as a Worldview

1. **Prime Reality:** Postmodernism views prime reality as unknowable. Many valid perspectives on reality exist, making determining which one is correct impossible.
2. **External Reality:** The nature of external reality is uncertain. Individuals must choose a view of the world that works for them in everyday life.
3. **Human Beings:** Postmodernism does not claim that humans have absolute value or definition. Individuals and communities can define a human being's nature and worth according to their needs and criteria.
4. **Death and Afterlife:** The afterlife is uncertain. Many different and equally valid speculations or theories exist on salvation and the afterlife.
5. **Knowledge:** Postmodernism says humans cannot objectively know the truth. Truth is subjective, and there are many equally valid truths.
6. **Ethics:** Morality is derived from society's needs. There are no universal moral standards. Each individual or culture develops its value system.
7. **History:** Postmodernism offers no overall meaning for world history. Individuals and societies create their meanings for history.

Questions:

1. What is prime reality—the real?
2. What is the nature of external reality? (i.e., the world around us)
3. What is a human being?
4. What happens to a person at death? (What is “salvation”?)
5. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
6. How do we know what is right and wrong?
7. What is the meaning of history?

What is Postmodernism and Post-Truth?

A Biblical Perspective

Postmodernism: Postmodernism is a worldview that:

- Denies **absolute truth**
- Sees truth as **subjective and relative**
- Emphasizes **personal experience** over objective facts
- Often **skeptical of authority, tradition, and meta-narratives**

Judges 21:25 – *"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* This verse captures the heart of postmodernism: **self-made truth**.

Post-Truth: A post-truth culture prioritizes **feelings** and **personal beliefs** over **facts** or **objective reality**.

In a post-truth world:

- Emotions dominate reason
- People disregard evidence if it contradicts personal narratives
- Truth is seen as inconvenient or oppressive

2 Timothy 4:3-4 – *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine... they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to myths."*

A Biblical Response

1. Affirm the Existence of Absolute Truth

- God's truth is not fluid or subjective but eternal and unchanging.

John 17:17 – *"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."*

Psalms 119:160 – *"The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."*

God's Word reveals **objective truth** that applies to everyone in all cultures and times.

2. Declare Jesus as the Embodiment of Truth

- In contrast to postmodernism's uncertainty, Jesus claims exclusivity.

John 14:6 – *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Truth is not just a concept; it is a Person. Jesus is the standard by which all truth is measured.

3. Expose the Danger of Relativism

- The Bible consistently warns about the chaos that comes when truth is abandoned.

Isaiah 5:20 – *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..."*

Romans 1:25 – *"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie..."*

A society detached from truth inevitably **distorts morality**, **abandons justice**, and **redefines identity**.

4. Proclaim the Gospel Boldly in a Confused World

- The Gospel offers clarity and hope in a culture confused about identity, purpose, and morality.

Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...”

1 Corinthians 1:18 – “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

The truth of the cross confronts relativism with the unchanging standard of God's justice and love.

5. Live with Integrity and Conviction

- Biblical truth must be both proclaimed and embodied.

Philippians 2:15 – “...that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

Christians must **stand out** by living lives rooted in biblical conviction, love, and holiness.

6. Engage Culture with Grace and Wisdom

- While upholding truth, believers are called to speak with compassion.

Ephesians 4:15 – “Speaking the truth in love...”

Colossians 4:6 – “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt...”

Rather than attacking or retreating, we should **engage thoughtfully**, address doubts, and present the Gospel respectfully (1 Peter 3:15).

Summary: Anchored in Truth Amid Shifting Sands

Postmodern/Post-Truth Culture	Biblical Response
Truth is relative and personal.	Truth is absolute and rooted in God's Word (John 17:17)
Feelings over facts	Faith based on revealed truth (Romans 10:17)
Rejection of moral absolutes	God's moral law is eternal (Psalm 119:89)
Loss of identity and meaning	Identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Skepticism toward authority	Submission to God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Notes:

Questions

1. What is a worldview? Name some reasons why you think it is important to have a Biblical Worldview.
2. What are some 'empty deceptions' the world gives as answers to the basic worldview questions?
3. In building bridges, which points would be the most challenging for you to practice and why?