

“WHAT IS TRUTH?”
John 18:33-38

Introduction:

1. The Jews charged Jesus with claiming to be the king of the Jews.
 - a. If the charge was true in a worldly sense, Jesus could be executed for rebellion against Rome.
 - b. Jesus explained to Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world.
2. Pilate asked, “Are you a king then?”
 - a. Jesus replied, “I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”
 - b. Pilate asked, “What is truth?”
3. What was Pilate’s attitude toward truth?
 - a. Did he sincerely wish to understand truth?
 - b. Did he doubt that anyone could know and understand truth?
4. The nature of truth has long been debated and discussed.
 - a. Is there a single objective standard of truth?
 - b. If there is such a standard, is it possible for one to understand it?

Discussion:

- I. POSTMODERNISM IS THE PREVAILING PHILOSOPHY OF OUR DAY.
 - A. It affects our thinking whether we are aware of it or not.
 1. Postmodernism is taught in our schools, disseminated in the media, and underlies what is considered acceptable behavior.
 2. It is at the bottom of our declining morals.
 3. It makes it much harder to teach the Gospel in this age.
 - B. Modernism is the philosophy that truth is determined by human reason and experience.
 1. The supernatural is rejected for it is beyond man’s experience.
 - a. The Bible is not inspired of God.
 - b. Miracles could not have happened.
 - c. Jesus was a great teacher, but not the Son of God.

2. **“Post” modernism is that which comes after modernism.**

C. What are the principal points of postmodernism?

1. **Reality is in the mind of the beholder; i.e. truth is what one thinks is true.**
2. **No one can think independently because each one is molded by his culture; i.e. my background determines what is truth for me and your background determines what is truth for you.**
3. **One cannot judge anything in another’s life as being right or wrong, good or bad, since each one has a different reality.**
4. **Nothing can be definitely proven one way or another by logic, reason, or by scientific and historical facts.**

D. What are the consequences of postmodernism?

1. **There is no absolute standard of right and wrong.**
2. **There is therefore no way to distinguish between good and evil, and truth and error.**
3. **We cannot absolutely say anyone is wrong about anything.**
4. **Every view must be tolerated for one is just as good as another.**
 - a. **The only thing a postmodernist cannot tolerate is one who claims there is absolute, objective truth.**
 - b. **Such a person is deemed arrogant and intolerant, and therefore must not be tolerated.**
5. **There cannot be such a thing as sin or false doctrine.**

E. The weakness of the postmodern philosophy is easily seen.

1. **If there is no absolute standard of right and wrong, how can we know postmodernism is the right explanation of reality?**
2. **It is an absolute to say there is no such thing as absolute truth.**

G. In morals and religion, postmodernists believe truth is what works for you, what you like, and what brings you pleasure.

1. **Living in fornication is just as good as marriage (Heb. 13:4).**
2. **Instrumental music, drama, and dancing are fine in worship if people enjoy them and they bring in a crowd (John 4:24; Col. 3:16,17).**

II. WHAT IS TRUTH?

- A. Truth originates with God and is a reflection of His character.**
- 1. God is perfect: “He is the Rock; His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deut. 32:4).**
 - 2. God does not change: “For I am the Lord, I do not change (Mal. 3:6); therefore His Word does not change (Psa. 119:89).**
 - 3. God does not lie: “...it is impossible for God to lie” (Heb. 6:18).**
 - 4. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17)**
- B. God has revealed His final truth to mankind through Christ.**
- “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds” (Heb. 1:1).**
- C. Christ promised the Holy Spirit would guide His apostles into all truth (John 16:13).**
- D. God’s revealed truth can be known:**
- “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31,32).**
- E. God’s revealed truth can be understood (Eph. 3:1-4).**
- F. Revealed truth must be defended against false teachers (Gal. 2:3-5).**
- G. We must live by God’s Word revealed through Christ for we will be judged by it at the Last Day (John 12:48).**

Conclusion:

- 1. A preacher showed the influence of postmodernism when he said of one who held a false doctrine: “I suppose that’s the truth as he sees it.”**
- 2. Postmodernism naturally leads to agnosticism for if there is no absolute, objective truth, we cannot know there is actually a God.**
- 3. We must obey the truth in order to be saved (1 Pet. 1:22,23).**

