

# Postmodernism & Progressive Christianity

Postmoderns and Progressive Christians question everything, doubt everything, bash truth, absolutes, biblical inspiration and authority. They reject salvation by faith, Jesus, the atonement, judgment and hell.

They talk about the “sin of certainty.” It's wrong to be certain. It's wrong to have faith. It is the new god of agnosticism. Faith has no place in postmodernism. God is not to be trusted.

There are not absolutes. The net cultural effect of postmodern philosophy is a culture deeply suspicious of any kind of truth claims. When you explain the Gospel to someone, and they object that it's intolerant for you to claim it's true for everyone, and it's all a matter of interpretation.

Apologetics are out, “Apologies” are in. To reach a postmodern generation, the Church doesn't need to have an apologetic; it needs to be an apologetic.

Social Justice trumps God's Justice. They reject a holy God's right to justice against sin while claiming its own passion for social justice.

They are a new evangelical Marxism and socialism. They are self-Saviors, redeeming the earth from social sins.

Question the Bible and our interpretation of the Bible

Deconstructionism – is in. Tear down everything you every believed and rebuild your faith on humanism. Tear it all apart, doubt, rethink it, question truth, absolutes

Be tolerant or everyone and everything. Be diverse, inclusive

# Postmodernism Notes

“The Sin of Certainty”

Question the Bible and our interpretation of the Bible

Deconstructionism - tear it all apart, doubt, rethink it, question truth, absolutes

- Be tolerant, diverse, inclusive
- The Gospel evolves.
- Romans is not answer.
- Jesus preached Gospel before his death, so it's not about atonement.

1 Cor. 15:2-4 – The Gospel of Paul

Mark 1:14

Don't start with the cross or sin

Jesus preached the Gospel before the cross

Start with Holy God and then sin,

Then God's justice needing to be satisfied.

Holiness unity trumps truth and holiness.

Lutheran pastor Boltz-Weber – teaching God is a child abuser

God killed Jesus?

God forgiving sin presents a problem

Does he overlook it. Ignore it.

Unilaterally change his mind about it?

Mercy? Grace? Are misunderstood as permissiveness.

*"He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished."*

How can God justify the unrighteousness?

- Judge who covers sin is unjust.
- We all have a need for justice.
- Social justice = fairness
- "Nothing fails like prayer."
  
- Discomfort with wrath of God
- Discomfort with angry God
- Discomfort with God's violence

Reject he wrath of God was satisfied...

"In Christ Alone" Presbyterians contested the "wrath of God was satisfied."

## **Penal substitution**

The Shack – false god teachings

- Lies people believe about God
- All are forgiven by mercy.
- God ignore his justice
- God breaks the law for love
- God abandoned justice in favor of love.
- No more need for justice
- God loves without justice

God does whatever he wants- theist

- God cannot...is not possible
- He can do whatever he wants
- He can dispense with justice.
- Everyone gets in.
- Mercy for all.
- Suffer for eternity. I wouldn't, so God wouldn't.
- Preach love, not hell

**Rob Bell**, no hell

Rob Bell "everything is spiritual"

## **Richard Rohr**

Natural religion and universal religion

- Universalism – everyone will be saved
- Perennialism... All religions are the same core
  
- Jesus historical figure
- Christ is universal bigger than Jesus
  
- Big bang is creation of Christ
- Creation is the first incarnation
  
- Panentheism - God and creation is one
- All things have divine DNA
- God is in everything he created
  
- Jen Hatmaker - Richard Rohr
- We are already "in Christ"
  
- Atonement = at-one-ment a union
- Hebrew word Kaphar = to cover, propitiate

- No atonement is necessary
- If you can imagine a better God, then that is god.
  
- Annihilation of the Soul - Adventists
- Punishment equal to the sin
  
- Dualistic Thinking is out
- Either-or, true-false, right-wrong, up-down, in-out, etc
  
- Non-dualistic – There is no up-down/ in-out, right-wrong, true-false, everything is right, there is no wrong
  
- Contemplative prayer think no evil, everyone is awesome.
- Setting your mind aside
- Real world is different