

be regarded as absolutely true. Eyewitness accounts, written documents, presented facts, etc. are no longer reliable sources since *all* have been *tainted by the biases* of the writers or eyewitnesses. As a result of this mindset, things that were once considered to be “facts” are now being regarded as “opinions” — opinions of whomever happened to have enough power and influence at the time to *allow* themselves to be heard on any given matter. So then, if recorded “history” is nothing more than the opinions of *only* those who had power and influence, those opinions are not only subject to, but are in fact being altered, re-arranged and edited to support specific agendas, groups, etc. In her book *Denying The Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, Deborah Lipstadt states: “These attacks on history and knowledge have the potential to alter dramatically the way established truth is transmitted from generation to generation... It is a climate that fosters deconstructionist history at its worst. No fact, no event and no aspect of history has any fixed meaning or content. Any truth can be retold. Any fact can be recast. There is no ultimate historical reality.” (pg.19) History is therefore becoming a tool to promote political and social agendas rather than a tool to understand the past. Historical facts that have for centuries been considered to be true are no longer accepted as such. From the Post Modernists view, the poor, the unimportant, the females and the minorities were *excluded* from history because it would have been *impossible* for historians — the politically powerful, rich, heterosexual, European descent, white males — to record *any* facts that were not *specifically* relevant to *them*. This is why we now see a proverbial smorgasbord of *ethnic* courses of study in Colleges and Universities as well as elementary schools. Since it’s impossible to draw *any* conclusions *without* biases, it’s not possible for us to *really* know what took place in times past anyway — so the past is simply “revised” to promote political and social agendas. Because of this revisionist agenda, Christian references are being removed at a frantic pace from American textbooks as well as in current society. Great Britain is altering school curriculum and suppressing all teaching about the Holocaust or the Crusades to avoid offending Muslims and contradicting what is taught in Mosques. Actions such as these will eventually erode history as we have known it because of the influence of Post Modernism. Historical facts are becoming meaningless. When historical *facts* are considered to be only *opinions*, the door is then wide open for reckless manipulation. For example, II Peter 1:16 states that the apostles were “eyewitnesses” of the majesty of Jesus Christ. A Post Modernist would say “so what? They *claimed* to have seen what they *wanted* to see just to reinforce *their* belief (bias) that a dead man rose from a grave.” *Every* fact is therefore on a foundation of shifting sand. *Nothing* is on stable ground — especially not Christianity.

Next Issue: Post Modernism — A Slippery Slope — Part Three

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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Post Modernism — A Slippery Slope — Part Two

In this issue, we are continuing our discussion of Post Modernism — a philosophy that is transforming *every* aspect of our society including the Lord’s church. Briefly stated — Post Modernism is a very diverse and complex philosophy that undermines objective and absolute truth. Objective and absolute truth (from which moral absolutes arise) is truth that is true for all people in all places for all times whether or not they believe it to be true. For example: since the Bible is the Inspired Word of God, it *is in fact true*. The fact that one may choose to not *accept* the Bible as the Word of God doesn’t make it cease to *be* the Word of God or cease to be true. There are those who do not *accept* God’s Word and therefore do not live by its teachings and standards, but that doesn’t mean that it isn’t true for those individuals. Those who choose to not believe in God *will still* face judgement and *will still* spend eternity in heaven or in hell *because* the Bible *says* that is so and the Bible *is* Absolute Truth. Not *believing* it to be true will not cause it to *not* be true.

The Post Modern philosophy however asserts that just because something is true for *you* doesn’t mean that it is necessarily true for *me*. Truth is *whatever* one *believes* it to be — that is to say if I do not *believe* something is true — for *me*, it *isn’t* true. This means that truth will vary with time, circumstances, culture, individuals, etc. If we were to perhaps oversimplify the thinking behind this idea, we could say that Post Modernists believe that since everyone exists with some sort of bias — race, religion, nationality, language, etc. — *no one* can be completely objective in their thinking — *everyone* views *everything* from his or her *own* bias and will therefore come to different conclusions about *everything* based on whatever the particular bias happens to be. While this *is* true on one level (we all have “baggage” that may have helped to form our opinions on certain things), Post Modernism takes this to an entirely different level and says that *no one* can ever tell *anyone* that *any* action or belief is *wrong* since it is *impossible* to see it from the other person’s biases. This means that each individual creates his or her *own* truth. In other words, if I choose to not accept the Bible as the Word of God — for *me*, it *isn’t* God’s Word and therefore has absolutely *no* relevance for me. And since I choose to not believe it, you are being intolerant of *my* choice if you try to tell me that I will be lost for eternity if I do not accept it as true. After all — just because *you* consider it true doesn’t give you a right to tell *me* that it’s true since I create my *own* truth based on *my* biases. This means that we are moving toward a society in which I am right and you are right and *nobody* is wrong. So if I even *question* the validity of your belief or even indicate that it is incorrect

according to God's Word, I am in fact *disparaging you* — not just discussing beliefs, since *you are the source* of your beliefs. In other words, rejecting one's belief is the *same* as rejecting the one who believes it.

So what? — you say. Those who choose to not believe in God or His Word have always been around us. That's no different than it has been for centuries. So what's the difference now? First of all, while it's true that there have always been those who do not accept God or His Word, it has always been acceptable to explain *our* reasons for believing in God to those who would listen. Now however, in the Post Modern Age, it's considered to be *intolerant* if Christians suggest that non-believers are in need of a Savior. That suggestion alone is considered to be judgmental since it is a belief *constructed* on Judeo Christian principles (biases) that are not shared by everyone. Secondly, these times are also different than in the past because of the very fact that this philosophy— with *all* of it's various concepts, is currently experiencing such widespread acceptance — *even among all of Christendom* — *including the Lord's church*. More often than not, *even* those who believe in God and His Word are gradually accepting the belief that the Bible can be interpreted in *many* different ways — and *all* of them are correct because — according to Post Modernism, “*my truth is subject to my bias of wherever I happen to be at the moment in my Christian development.*” Accepting this Post Modern philosophy of truth makes the Word of God a “moving target.” It changes from person to person and is not the same for *you* as it is for *me*. It's Words are not absolute and objective words that Christians must *study* to discover and learn the truth contained therein. Post Modern Christians simply “manufacture it as they go along” *based on their understanding at the time*. It will therefore change according to their *current* beliefs, development and thinking at the moment. So this Post Modern philosophy of truth means that *everyone* is *always* right — no matter *what* they believe, because they create their *own* truth according to their *own* biases, culture, development, etc. Hence — the “Unity in Diversity” movement among churches today. *No* belief is *wrong* — because God's Word is “adjustable” — depending on each individual's own background, etc. (So are we starting to see why evangelism is becoming more and more difficult in today's society? More on that later in this series).

Before we go into the more specific aspects of Post Modernism's effects on our society, let's look at an actual example that will perhaps even more clearly demonstrate how *very* serious this issue has become. In his book *The Cultural Church*, F. LaGard Smith relates this incident: — After a lengthy discussion with his students concerning exactly what “morality” is, the Professor in a Christian University asked his students whether or not there was such a thing as inherent evil. After some discussion the reply of the students was “no.” “Was not the Holocaust evil?” the Professor then asked. The answer again was “no.” The general consensus of the reason for the “no” reply from the class was — “I simply can't impose *my* morality on someone else.” (pg. 75) *MY* morality?!! What about the morality taught in the Bible????!! Oh, but wait a minute, these Post Modern

influenced Christian young adults don't believe that the Bible is Absolute Truth. They believe morals are *relative*, not *absolute* — that it's different for different cultures, stages of development, backgrounds, etc. The class determined that it would be impossible for *them* to insert themselves into the culture and biases of those involved in the Holocaust. Therefore, they could not say for certain that it was indeed an evil act. This incident brethren, took place in the early 1990's at a well known Christian University! Do we need to mention here that some of *these very students* are probably Deacons and Elders right now in the Church.

Post Modernism is so diverse and complex that it would be impossible for us to do justice to the entire philosophy in just a few articles. There are books and books written on the subject. But in these next few issues of *Diligence*, we'll be discussing a few specific ways that it is influencing various aspects of our society. Literature, psychology, law, science, education, healthcare and just about any other category we could name are all being influenced including — and *especially* the Lord's Church. How? Well, as we said, we'll only touch on *some* of these categories. We've already stated that Post Modernism is very complex and diverse so *we can not stress enough* that our comments concerning each category will in many cases be oversimplified and incomplete in order to keep each section as brief as possible while still providing some concept as to the gravity of the effects of Post Modernism. Let's begin with some ways in which Post Modernism is effecting —

HISTORY — Generally speaking, we might say that History is a record of the past. The records might be based on eye witnesses, written documents, discovered artifacts, etc. For the most part, the greater the impact any given event, person or discovery had on the human race, the more important the historical account is considered to be. For example: the posting of Martin Luther's 95 Theses on the church door is considered to be of great importance because that posting led to the Reformation. So throughout the ages, historians have maintained records of significant events, people, etc. that impacted the world in some *significant* manner.

Throughout the Scriptures, we frequently see references to significant people of the past, important historical events or to eyewitness accounts, For example — “*...I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob...*” (Exodus 3:6)

“*It was the Lord our God Himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes...*” (Joshua 24:17 NIV)”

“*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*” (II Peter 1:16 KJV)

Now, let's make a connection here based on what we have already discussed about Post Modernism. Since Post Modernists have concluded that biases are completely unavoidable, they have therefore concluded that *no* historical facts can