

In a culture where the Bible is understood and *accepted* as Absolute Truth — *because* it is the Inspired Word of God, it is studied and read with fervor. When the Absolute Truth of the Bible is the *accepted standard* of a society, the spread of the relativism of Post Modernism is slowed to a creep. But when Bible illiteracy thrives, there is nothing to slow the forward progress of Post Modernism. In his book *Becoming Conversant With The Emerging Church*, D.A. Carson states; “...many have taken note of the rising biblical illiteracy in Western culture.

Postmodernism certainly cannot be said to be the sufficient cause of such illiteracy. However, once people...think that *all* religious claims are in principle nonauthoritative...it becomes less obvious why one should revere the Bible, let alone read it, unless one is also reading many *other* religious texts and assigning to *all* of them the same authority. Conversely, biblical illiteracy did not cause postmodernism. Nevertheless, it is clearly easier for large numbers of people to adopt postmodernism epistemology once a deep knowledge of the Bible is no longer culture-wide.” (pg. 79) He goes on to say; “Where Biblical illiteracy abounds, one of the barriers [that can hold back Post Modernism] is taken away.” (pg.99)

Now let’s connect together some pieces from all of the information we’ve discussed concerning Post Modernism’s relevance to the Lord’s Church. First of all, now that we understand how the Post Modern mindset “constructs” knowledge on its own rather than accepting *anything* as truth — because it’s *all* nothing more than a product of biases — it’s pretty easy to see why Post Moderns believe that *all* religious Truths *aren’t* Truths that have been “*found in*” Scripture by way of diligent study, but have instead been “*constructed from*” Scripture and formed in biased human minds. In other words — we only believe what we believe *because* we were *programmed* by our environment to believe it. In his book *Adrift*, Phil Sanders points out that those who have been influenced by Post Modernism believe they are *smarter* than their forefathers *because* they are willing to *admit* to their cultural biases — unlike previous generations. He goes on to state: “They wonder why everyone does not admit his cultural biases. Churches of Christ, to them, did not arrive at their beliefs through a *study* of the revealed will of God but have *blindly accepted* the rationalistic views of another era.” [pg. 36 - emphasis added] When we couple this attitude with the idea that the Bible itself is not a source of Absolute Truth, it becomes quite evident that the goal of this philosophy is to convince us that Scriptures are nothing more than a product of the *Church* rather than a product of the Holy Spirit. If this is true, then the Word is not binding on us today since it addressed the problems of the church *only* during the days in which it was written. And that belief brethren, is a problem facing the Lord’s Church today.

**Next Issue — Post Modernism — A Slippery Slope — Part Five**

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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 Four

So far in this series, we have presented a very brief overview of Post Modernism as well as taken a bit more focused look at some of the effects it is having on two *specific* areas — that of History and Education. If you have not read the previous three issues, we suggest that you visit [www.gorfsystems.com/diligence](http://www.gorfsystems.com/diligence) and do so since there is an abundance of foundational concepts explained in those issues — some of which are rudimentary to our continuing discussion of Post Modernism.

We have mentioned that there is hardly *any* area of society that is *not* being influenced by Post Modernism. Literature, economics, government, psychotherapy, religion, academic disciplines and science are all changing as they succumb to the Post Modern view overtaking our culture. Obviously, we have no intentions of addressing *all* of these areas in this series. We believe that once we have a basic idea of *what* Post Modernism *is*, and realize how it has effected just a *few* areas, it should become easier for each of us to recognize — and be on the look-out for — Post Modernism’s influence whenever and wherever we see it. So let’s take a brief look at a couple of other areas being influenced by this new way of thinking. Let’s begin this issue with —

**HEALTHCARE AND FITNESS** — Since Post Modernism is a *blend* of *multiple* philosophies including Secular Humanism, New Age and Eastern Religions, the influence of New Age and Eastern Religions is perhaps more obvious in the areas of fitness and healthcare than in some of the others we have discussed. Our previous study of New Age (*Diligence* August 15, 2002) revealed that it is a philosophy that teaches that we are *all* gods. We simply must get in touch with and ignite the “divine spark (the god) within us.” This can be accomplished through *discipline* of the mind and body — hence, we have seen an *explosion* in the popularity of such practices as yoga (a Hindu practice), meditation techniques, so called “Christian Disciplines,” *extreme* dietary practices resulting in a huge increase in health food stores as well as the use of herbal treatments for various maladies, the use of massage therapy, crystals, acupuncture, aroma therapy and numerous other *alternative* methods of healing for the mind and the body. Most of these “alternative medicine” techniques are deeply rooted in Eastern mystical religions and are outside the realm of conventional medicine as it is practiced in the United States. The *National Institutes of Health* has formed *The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)*, for the purpose of

investigating some of these therapies. We have also seen a huge influx of books on the market promoting numerous alternative treatments. One of the better known authors of this genre is probably Deepak Chopra. Several years ago, his *New York Times* Best Seller titled *Ageless Body, Timeless Mind* encouraged an alternative Hindu healing method called “Ayurvedic” and dealt with what Chopra referred to as “Prana” or a life energy that flows through our body. Ayurveda aims to balance body, mind and spirit (holistic medicine) since it teaches that disease arises when a person is out of harmony with the universe. The Indian guru from whom Chopra learned Ayurveda has bestowed the title “Lord of Immortality...” on Chopra. We’re taking the space here to even mention Deepak Chopra to illustrate the point that *numerous* Christians have probably read some of Chopra’s books —perhaps *How To Know God* or his newest novel, *Buddha: A Story of Enlightenment* — and completely failed to realize that the messages contained in his books are based on New Age philosophies and the practice of Hinduism. Should we as Christians be so *easily* conned into dangling our feet in the practice of New Age and Hinduism? Shouldn’t we make *every* effort to *know* what we’re getting into — *before* we get into it? Shouldn’t we be certain that whatever we decide to “buy into” is *not* going against God and His Word and is in fact, actually *practicing* some form of an Eastern religion? Perhaps we should mention here that *all* alternative forms of medicine *may* not necessarily be bad. Research has proven that there *is* some value in *some* alternative practices. For example, it’s been shown that certain specific smells help to calm and reduce the sensation of pain during or following medical procedures — perhaps because it directs one’s mind toward something more pleasant than the pain. Is that a good thing? Maybe. Would that mean a Christian who has faith and trust in God is *more* soothed by a certain smell than he is by directing his mind to God in prayer? Or what about the homemaker who buys an aroma therapy candle because the label claims its scent will bring peace and harmony to her home? Should *Christians* be able to rely on prayer and God to do that rather than a candle? Just questions — *you* decide the *answers*.

These mostly *unproven* alternative forms of medicine are gaining popularity at an alarming rate in the medical community. Nearly *all* nursing schools have courses teaching *several* of these methods. We’re also seeing more and more hospitals focusing on holistic medicine. It is the Post Modern culture that *allows* these practices to flourish, often *without* any scientific credibility. Why? Because, remember, in a Post Modern world, even *science* is *biased* — there *is no unbiased* understanding of *anything*, Therefore, *everything* is of equal value — it doesn’t *have* to be *proven*, If *I* believe it heals, you have no right to question *my* truth or belief. Nothing is absolute or objective — not even science.

Just a word now about fitness before we move on. The *over-emphasis* on fitness nowadays has to a large extent, been *driven* by a belief in the evolution of man into godhood through various self disciplines. It has become a case of man

worshiping man (self) rather than man worshiping God — his Creator. This is of course not to say that everyone who works at being physically fit is in search of their god within, but the *extreme* emphasis on fitness is largely attributable to a Post Modern mindset that believes that mankind is god and should therefore strive for perfection in this life on earth. *Don’t misunderstand what we are saying here*. Our bodies *are* the temple of the Holy Spirit and striving to be physically fit is admirable. It’s often the skewed (and sometimes not even recognized) motivation that is the problem. Our perfection is attainable *only* through the blood of Christ and is *spiritual* in nature — not physical.

Well, we could go on for many more issues addressing Post Modernism’s effect on specific aspects of our society but by now, the “mindset” behind this philosophy is probably becoming quite clear. Since Post Modernism relegates just about *everything* to relative and subjective instead of absolute and objective, there’s no reason for religion and the Bible itself to escape this same fate. In the Post Modern Age, where relativism has taken root, Truth claims made by *any* religion are considered to be an intolerant personal choice of closed minded members of that faith. Any religion that claims there *is* a right and a wrong or demands that society hold to a standard of morality *based on God and His Word* is doomed to be dismissed as “intolerant” if Post Modernism continues to flourish. Personal *and* societal morality becomes a rule of “individual construction” or “personal choice” rather than being based on the Word. There is no longer a *standard* that can correct or stop sin. If the Bible is no longer understood to be Absolute Truth, there is no reason for anyone to turn to it for guidance concerning *anything*. So this means there is no longer any reason one would *want* to read the Bible to determine what *God’s* way is concerning *any* matter — whether it be the question of abortion or the pattern to be followed for the New Testament Church. As we stated in Part One of this series, the Bible is then moved into a category of a “religious work among *other* religious works.” In a Post Modern society, the Bible is really no different than Deepak Chopra books. All are considered to be of equal value for guidance in our lives. It becomes *only* a question of *which* book *I* choose to use for *my* “path to God.” True Christians however, recognize the Bible as the *Inspired* Word of God and look to it for their moral standard and for guidance on *all* life issues and questions. Christians who have not fallen victim to the influence of Post Modernism clearly believe that the Bible is *filled* with Absolute teaching regarding salvation, right and wrong behaviors, actions, moral standards, etc. Christians who *have* however fallen victim to a Post Modern way of thinking may say things like: “how do I know the men who wrote the New Testament weren’t just male chauvinists and slanted their writings that way?” — or — “we don’t know for sure what their culture was like — *we* weren’t there.” Some may even claim that in depth Bible study is “worship of the *Bible*” rather than of God. Comments like these indicate they have accepted that Truth is indeed *subject* to culture and to manipulation by man himself. Remember the Deborah Lipstadt quote in Part Two of this series; “...Any truth can be retold. Any fact can be recast. There is no ultimate historical reality...”