

Tell the Truth

Sunday Morning, September 8, 2013

Thesis:

Tell the Truth Even if it Hurts a Postmodernistic Society!

Introduction:

Excerpts from an article in enews by Dr. Steve Elwart, April 1, 2013

"Postmodernism" The Essence of the Emergent Church!

Epistemology is the study of truth or how we learn truth.

Premodernism assumes that God exists and knows everything.
(Truth begins with God)

Modernism assumes that truth can be found through the senses
of man.
(Truth is what we feel, see, and measure)

Postmodernism denies that absolute truth can be known, or
even that it is desirable that it should be known.

Example: Jeff Leffel, director of The Crossroads Project, an
apologetics ministry designed to equip Christians to understand
and effectively communicate in our post modern culture, wrote
some of the following points:

- ✚ Reality is in the mind of the beholder.
- ✚ People are not able to think independently, because they
are molded by their culture.
- ✚ We cannot judge in another culture or another person's
life, because our reality may be different from theirs.
- ✚ Nothing is ever proven, either by science, history or any
other discipline.

Postmodernism also denies that a story or written word
has an absolute message.

1

(Flip)



I. The Truth is Not Subject to Private Interpretation

(II Peter 1:20)

First of all, you should know this: No prophecy of Scripture
comes from one's own interpretation,
Interpretation

(Matthew 28: 19 – 20)

19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Teach Truth

(John 14:6)

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one
comes to the Father except through Me.

II. Can There Be Old and New Truth?

(I Timothy 4: 1 – 2)

1 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will
depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the
teachings of demons,
2 through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared.

(I Timothy 6: 3 – 5)

3 If anyone teaches other doctrine and does not agree with the
sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching
that promotes godliness,
4 he is conceited, understanding nothing, but has a sick interest
in disputes and arguments over words. From these come envy,
quarreling, slander, evil suspicions,
5 and constant disagreement among people whose minds are
depraved and deprived of the truth, who imagine that godliness
is a way to material gain.

2

(Turn Inside Out)

(I Timothy 6: 20 – 21)



20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding irreverent, empty speech and contradictions from the “knowledge” that falsely bears that name.

21 By professing it, some people have deviated from the faith. Grace be with all of you.

(II Timothy 3: 1 – 5)

3 But know this: Difficult times will come in the last days.

2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good,

4 traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people!

(II Timothy 4: 2 – 4)

2 Proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not; rebuke, correct, and encourage with great patience & teaching.

3 For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear something new.

4 They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.

(Isaiah 30:10)

They say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy the truth to us. Tell us flattering things. Prophecy illusions.

III. Culture Should Not Hold Back the Truth!

(Ezekiel 33:8)

If I say to the wicked, ‘Wicked one, you will surely die,’ but you do not speak out to warn him about his way, that wicked person will die for his iniquity, yet I will hold you responsible for his blood.

Warn Others!

3

(Acts 17: 19 – 33)

(Flip)



19 They took him and brought him to the Areopagus, and said, “May we learn about this new teaching you’re speaking of?

20 For what you say sounds strange to us, and we want to know what these ideas mean.”

21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners residing there spent their time on nothing else but telling or hearing something new.

22 Then Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect.

23 For as I was passing through & observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed:

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

24 The God who made the world and everything in it—He is Lord of heaven & earth & does not live in shrines made by hands.

25 Neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives everyone life and breath and all things.

26 From one man He has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live.

27 He did this so they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out & find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

28 For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’

29 Being God’s offspring then, we shouldn’t think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image fashioned by human art and imagination.

30 “Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent,

31 because He has set a day when He is going to judge the world in righteousness by the Man He has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead.”

32 When they heard about resurrection of the dead, some began to ridicule him. But others said, “We’d like to hear from you again about this.” 33 Then Paul left their presence.

Conclusion: Tell the Truth Even if it Hurts a Postmodernistic Society!