

TODAY'S SOCIETY -TWO DIFFERENT CULTURES

The Post modern world is wired very differently from anything Christendom has experienced. It is basically made up of those whose lives have been influenced by Christianity and those who are what is termed “post modern”.

Without going into all the distinctions and origins of postmodernism,(for those who want to explore this further, read Robert Webber's *Ancient –Future Faith, Baker Book House*) we can describe postmodernism being determined by two things, neither of which are generational issues:

- Who influenced a person growing up – family or peers?
- Did that person or his or her family grow up going to Church or not?

If a person is influenced more by his or her peers than their family and did not grow up in church, they are most likely postmodern.

Today's times

- Perception is that there is no ultimate value
- Many paths to the same destination
- All faiths are viewed as interchangeable
- No Grand scheme anymore
- Christianity is no longer the starting point in one's search for meaning
- “What works for me” is more important than some eternal value

The World today

- There is little difference viewed between the secular and sacred
- Spirituality is a state of mind not a state of relationship

Generally Speaking Postmoderns have the following leanings

- **Authenticity.** Prefer honesty over politeness. No frills, except technology. No Sunday morning only faith.
- **Community.** Need to see the Gospel lived out. Rather than instant conversion, a process of converting is needed.
- **Lack of dogmatism.** Rules aren't what they used to be. The historic truth of the Bible is not as important as if it speaks to my needs.
- **Music and Art** are important in their lives

- **Diversity.** Gender and race are meaningless
- **Interdependence.** You feed me, I will feed you mentality.
- **Entertainment.** Extremely important.
- **Values.** No ultimate values, No ultimate truth.
- **Propositions.** Not as important as feelings
- **Experience** is the highest form of reality
- **Institutions.** General Distrust
- **Community.** Very strong positive feelings
- **Family.** Made up of those who befriend them more than those who produced them.
- **Spirituality.** Do not feel one has to have relationship to organized religion to be spiritual.