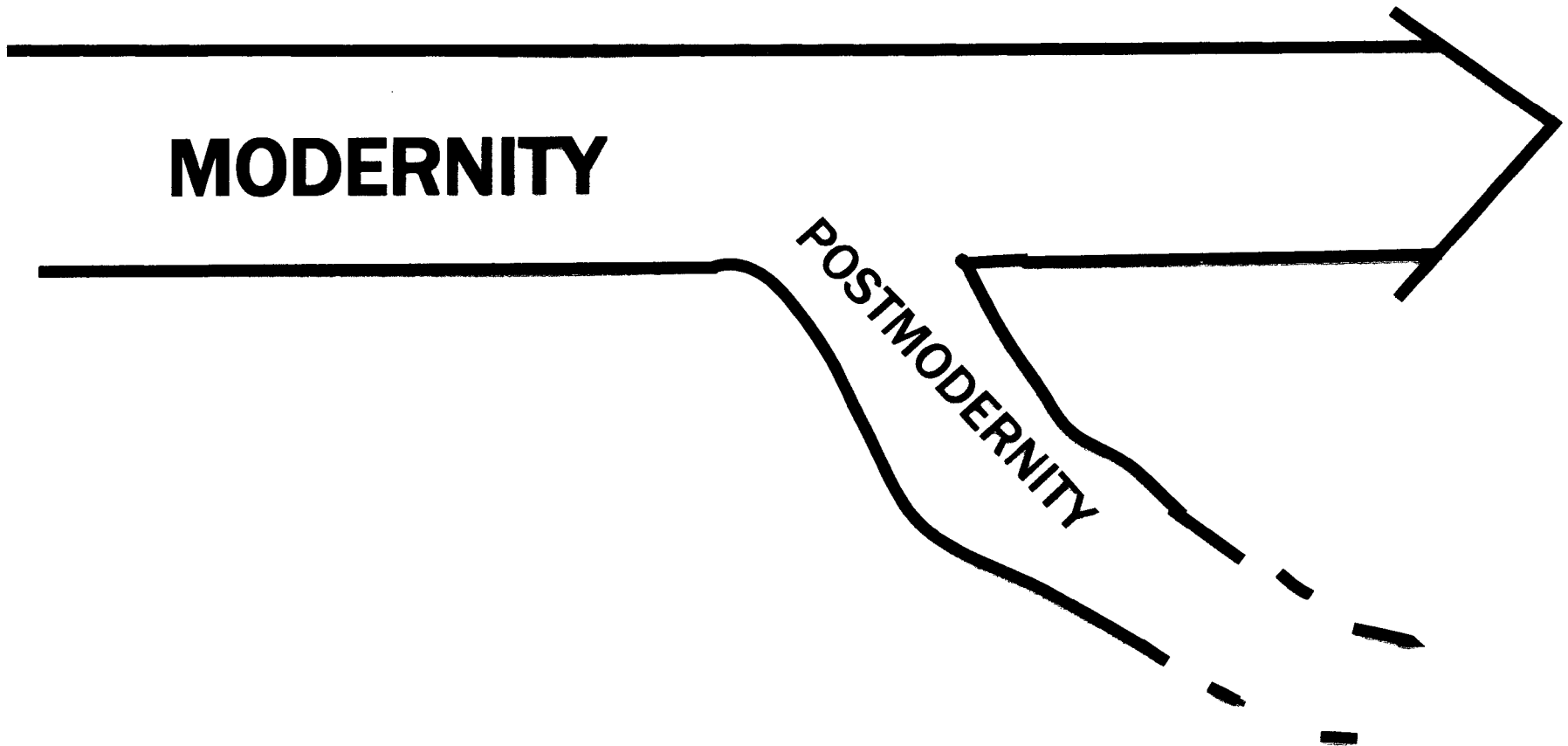


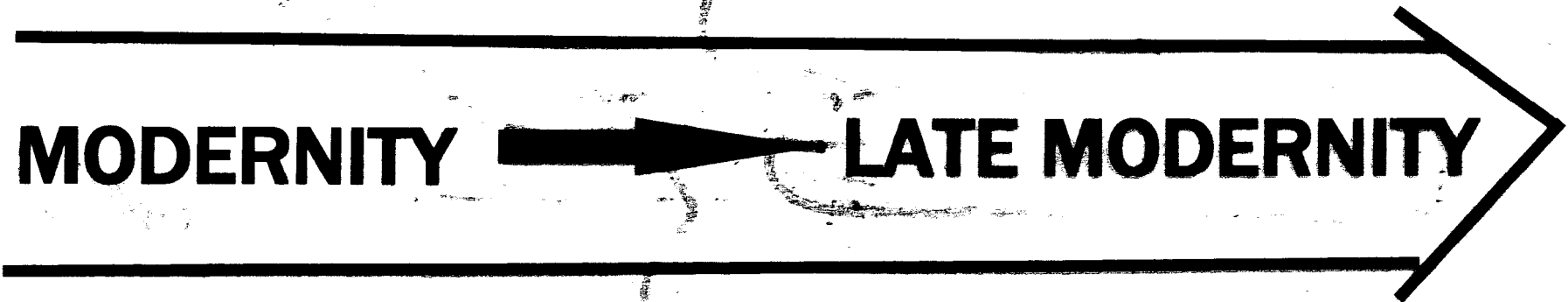
Postmodern Worldview

POSTMODERN WORLDVIEW

THE NATURE OF POST-MODERNITY



THE NATURE OF POST-MODERNITY



THE GOSPEL IN THE CONTEXT OF POSTMODERNITY

- The nature of postmodernity**
- Evaluation of postmodernity**
- Christian witness in a postmodern world**

POSTMODERNISM ?

[based on F. Nietzsche and
J. Derrida]

- **A romantic reaction to modernity that will die out.**
- P. Berger, J. Ellul
- **The deconstruction of modernity with no alternative answer.**
- J. Lyotard, M. Foucault
- **A late stage of modernity.**
- E. Gellner, David Harvey
- **A new stage after modernity.**
- P. Rosenau, B. Smart
- **A transitional stage to a new paradigm.**
- H. Smith, F. Simons, M. Billig
- **The west's encounter with pluralism.**

POST MODERN ERA: 1950 –

- **COLLAPSE OF COLONIALISM**
 - **QUESTIONING OF SCIENCE**
 - **CONCERN WITH ECOLOGY**
 - **EMERGENCE OF PLURALISM IN SOCIETY**
-
- + **affirmation of “others” and “otherness” – introduction of the concept of “culture”**
 - + **concern for indigenization and contextualization**
 - + **use of social science insights**
 - **uncritical contextualization**
 - **dominance of the social sciences**
 - **relativism**

WORLDVIEW THEMES **OF POSTMODERNITY**

1. CRISIS OF REPRESENTATION:

1.1 Deconstruction

- **rejection of grand narratives**
- **rejection of Greek dualism**
- **anti-reductionism**
- **end of history**

1.2 Perspectivalism:

- **anti-GUT, all views are valid**

1.3 Existentialism – history

- **focus on the news**

2. PARTICULARISM–universalism

- **Reject uniformity as tyranny**
- **Celebrate pluralism, diversity, non-conformity, bricolage, pistach, patch-work,**

fragmentation

- **celebrate non-conformity**
- **replace 'civilization' by 'culture'**
- **celebrate all cultures as equals
and all are good**
- **see others as 'natives'**
- **stress tolerance, and coexistence
of diverse groups**
- **democratization**
 - **distrust of authority and
specialists**

3. INSTRUMENTALISM

- **social construction of knowledge**
- **Saussurian signs**
- **subjectivism**
- **knowledge is power**
- **hyper reality**
- **relativism**

4. EGOCENTRISM–group

- **individual freedom, rights**
- **self-divinization**
- **consumerism**
- **entertainment**
- **narcissism**

5. LATE CAPITALISM-nation state

- **remystified consumerism**
- **commodification**
- **nation state**

AFFECTIVE THEMES:

1. Entertainment

MORAL THEMES:

1. Therapy–salvation

- **sickness and health**

2. Spiritualism–materialism

DOMINANT MYTHS:

1. Apocalypse

MODERN ENLIGHTENMENT

POSTMODERN DECONSTRUCTION

CIVILIZATION

CULTURE

IMPERIALISM

ANTI-COLONIALISM

SCIENCE

EXPERIENCE

***PRIMITIVE/
ABORIGINE***

NATIVE

MODERN WV.

POSTMODERN WV

UNIFIED THEORY

- uniformity
- g.u.t.
- bureaucratic

DECONSTRUCTN.

- diversity
- no g.u.t.
- ad hocracy

MECHANISTIC

- efficiency
- technique & planning
- discrete objects
- success, production & profit
- segmented realities

ORGANIC

- relational
- creative freedom
- energy field
- health, wealth, and happiness
- integrated realities.

EVALUATION OF POST-MODERNITY

1. STRENGTHS:

- **challenges the arrogance of human reason and the privileged position of science**
- **helps us see other peoples and their cultures as fully human**

2. WEAKNESSES:

- **offers no answers to the world's crying needs**
- **has no spiritual message of salvation, no sense of mission to a needy world**

EFFECT OF POST-MODERNITY ON CHURCH AND MISSIONS

- + recognition of young churches as equals**
- + contextualization of the gospel**
- + rejection of colonialism and arrogance**

- **cultural and theological relativism**
- **loss of missionary vision, increased self-centeredness**
- **uncritical contextualization**
- **“missionary go home”**

HOW CAN WE COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL IN A POSTMODERN WORLD?



COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL IN A POSTMODERN WORLD

1. BEAR BOLD WITNESS

- **God's witnesses, not his lawyers**
- **empower others to make decisions**
- **speak the truth in love**
- **see the world as others see it**

2. NARRATIVE WITNESS

3. INSTRUMENTALISM – positivism

- **perspectivalism**
- **pragmatism**
- **relativism**

4. EGO – group

- **self, self fulfillment**
- **freedom–responsibilities**
- **existentialism–now,
pursuit of happiness**
- **consumerism, comfort**
- **health**
- **entertainment**
- **narcissim**

3. INSTRUMENTALISM // positivism

3.1 Relativism

- perspectivalism: no Archimedian vantage point to view reality
- affirm all truth claims
- reject any judgment another
- reject evangelism and missions

3.2 Utilitarian pragmatism

- does it work (not is it true)

4. EXPERIENTIALISM // cognitivism

4.1 Recover feelings [affectivity]

4.2 Recover morality

5. EGO // group

5.1 Self-fulfillment

- 'self' replaces the old word 'soul'

5.2 Freedom and rights

- reject corporate and personal responsibilities

5.3 Existentialism

- focus on the present; news not history
- focus on health, not meaning of life
- pursuit of comfort and happiness unquestioned right
- narcissism

5.4 Entertainment

- boredom the great sin

6. CONSUMERISM // aestheticism

6.1 Commodification of everything

6.2 Capitalist market economy

6.3 ENTERTAINMENT → New Religion

7. THERAPEUTIC SOCIETY

7.1 Sickness the main evil

- replaces old notion of sin

7.2 Health is the goal

- replaces old notion of holiness.
Our heroes are specimens of health,
not holy saints

8. RECOVERY OF AFFECTIVITY

- emotional expression
- imagination
- metaphors

9. RECOVERY OF ETHICS

- moral concerns