



Developing a Christian Worldview

Learning to live, think,
and act as citizens of the
Kingdom of God.

**Please mute yourself
upon joining the Zoom.**

Thanks! We'll get started in just a few minutes...



City University

Developing a Christian Worldview

Week 04:
Postmodernism & Truth

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
21 FEB Jesus, The Radical <i>9 & 11 AM</i> <i>In-person & Online</i>	22	23	24 Week 01 <i>The Story of God, Pt 1</i>	25	26	27
28 Jesus, The Radical <i>9 & 11 AM</i> <i>In-person & Online</i>	1 MAR	02	03 Week 02 <i>The Story of God, Pt 2</i>	04	05	06
07 Jesus, The Radical <i>9 & 11 AM</i> <i>In-person & Online</i>	08	09	10 Week 03 <i>Postmodernism & Truth</i> <i>Kingdom Sexual Ethics</i>	11	12	13
14 Jesus, The Radical <i>9 & 11 AM</i> <i>In-person & Online</i>	15	16	17 Week 04 <i>Postmodernism & Truth</i>	18	19	20
21 Jesus, The Radical <i>9 & 11 AM</i> <i>In-person & Online</i>	22	23	24 Week 05 <i>Modern Heresies</i>	25	26	27

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 PALM SUNDAY <i>9 & 11 AM</i> <i>In-person & Online</i>	29	30	31 Week 06 <i>Kingdom People & Politics</i>	01 APR	02	03
04 EASTER SUNDAY <i>9 & 11 AM</i> <i>In-person & Online</i>	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	01 MAY



Before We Dive In

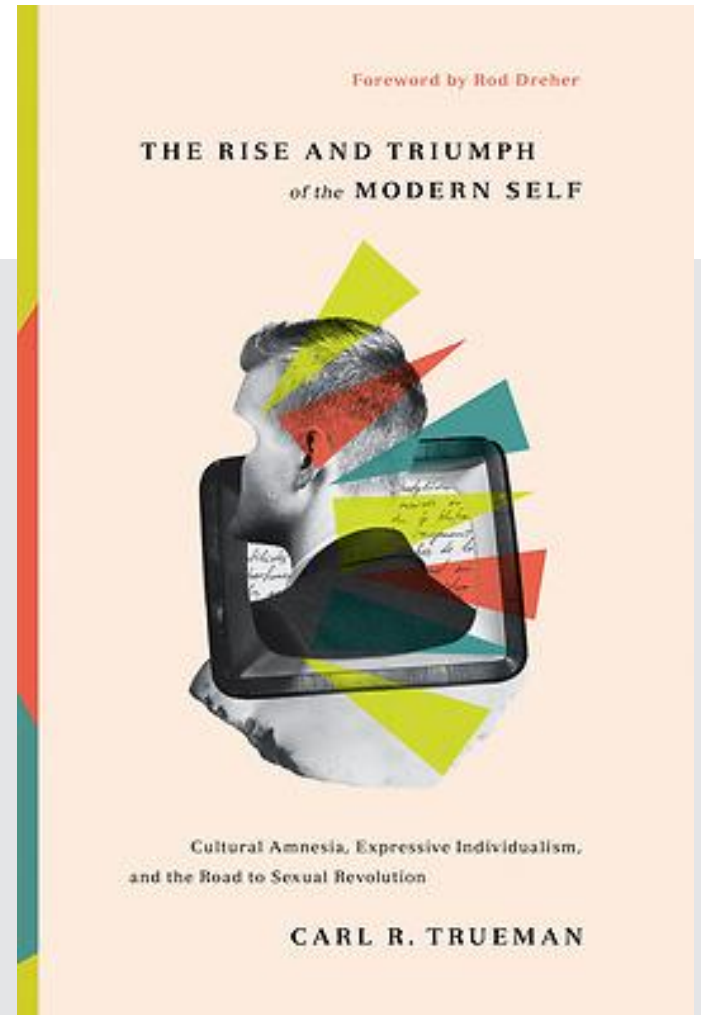
Reading Recommendation



READING RECOMMENDATION

The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self

By Carl Trueman





01 **Postmodernism**

Defined _ Brief History _ Results



01 _ POSTMODERNISM



Understanding worldview is a bit like trying to see the lens of one's own eye. We do not ordinarily see our own worldview, but we see everything else by looking through it. Put simply, our worldview is the window by which we view the world, and decide, often subconsciously, what is real and important, or unreal and unimportant. Every one of us has a worldview, and our worldview governs our thinking even when – or especially when – we are unaware of it.

Phillip E. Johnson



Example

“Should I wear a mask during a global pandemic?”



01 _ POSTMODERNISM



The purpose of worldview studies is nothing less than to liberate Christianity from its cultural captivity, unleashing its power to transform the world. It tells us how to navigate the world through the lens of God's character and his Kingdom.



Postmodernsim

What the heck is it?



01 _ POSTMODERNISM

Postmodern argues that there are no overarching stories that give meaning to life or absolute truth.

It is our cultural norm to reject any overarching meta-narrative and yet our primary identity as citizens of the Kingdom of God are defined by the story of God outlined in the biblical meta-narrative.



01 _ POSTMODERNISM



Every system of thought begins with some ultimate principle or meta-narrative. If it doesn't begin with God, it will begin with some dimension of creation – the material, spiritual, biological, philosophical, empirical, etc.



Postmodernsim

A Very Brief History



Plato

c. 429–348 BC

Platonic Dualism

The material world is the realm of error and illusion and the path to true knowledge is to free ourselves from the bodily senses, so that reason can inform us to what is true.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

1712–1778

The Romantic Era

The individual is at his most authentic before he is shaped and corrupted by the need to conform to social conventions.

Descartes, Kant, Darwin

The 18th Century (1700s)

The Enlightenment

***Kant** – Autonomy; overthrowing all external authority which is oppressive in order to find the true inner self with is free and autonomous.*

***Descartes** – A sharp dichotomy between matter and mind and helped usher in the concept of secular dualism*

Charles Taylor

c. 1931–

Social Imaginary

The myriad beliefs, practices, normative expectations, and even implicit assumptions that members of a society share and that shape their daily lives. It is the way people think about the world, how they imagine it to be, how they act intuitively in relation to it.

Philip Rieff

c. 1922–2006

Expressive Individualism

Each of us finds our meaning by giving expression to our own feelings and desires.



01 _ POSTMODERNISM

Expressive Individualism

01

The individual is king

02

The individual can reject the notion of any external authority or meaning to conform and make himself / herself the creator of any meaning there might be

03

When the inner psychological life of the individual is king and sovereign, then identity becomes as potentially unlimited as the human imagination

04

Personal authenticity is only found by rejecting outward definitions and beginning to publicly display your inward desires.



01 _ POSTMODERNISM



In order to form a Christian worldview we must overcome **the divide of sacred and secular, rejecting the tendency to divide our life into separate compartments of worship, morality, science, politics, economics, etc.**



Upper Category

The Mind

Lower Category

The Body



Subjective Relative

Postmodernism

Modernism

Objective Universal



01 _ POSTMODERNISM



Christians must find ways to overcome the sacred / secular divide by demonstrating to the world that a Christian worldview alone offers a whole and integrated truth that is not oppressive but leads to freedom and life as God intended and created.



Question

Who defines what is moral, right or true?



01 _ POSTMODERNISM

Moral Relativism

_ Will this make me happy? Does it harm someone else? Does it coincide with my deepest psychological desires and longings? Does it feel right? Do I believe in my heart that this is right and authentic for me?

_ Ethics, therefore, becomes a function of feeling. Ethics are built upon a subjective, emotional foundation.



01 _ POSTMODERNISM



The culture with no sacred order has the impossible task of justifying itself only by reference to itself.

Philip Rieff



01 _ POSTMODERNISM

Postmodernism In Education

_ The goal of education should be to teach students how to construct their own knowledge

_ Teachers are not to tell that their ideas are right or wrong, either, but merely to encourage them to clarify and articulate their own understandings.



01 _ POSTMODERNISM



Truth is made, not found.

Richard Rorty



02 **Infected Evangelicalism**

Why Postmodern Christianity Isn't Christianity



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM



The evangelical movement began to be shaped by the postmodern culture – instead of being a culture shaper.



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

01

The revivalists of the first and second Great Awakening brought **sweeping changes** to how people perceived their faith and the church



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

02

Focus on an **intense emotional conversion experience**
and even conversion at the expense of discipleship



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

03

Instituted a **celebrity model of leadership** with a focus on the preacher / speaker / influencer / entertainer



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

04

There was a deep suspicion of theological learning and a sort of **anti-intellectualism** that pervaded the church



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

05

People began focus on **needs / preferences of the individual** over the community and the idea that individual choice was the final determinant of belief



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

06

There was a growing tendency to ignore the historical traditions of the church: anti-creedal, anti-historical, etc.



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

07

The church **withdrew from intellectual encounters** with the secular world and gave up the idea that Christianity gives a comprehensive framework to interpret all of life and scholarship.

**02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM**

Postmodern Evangelicalism

Postmodernism, relentlessly undermining foundations of meaning, creates an inner emptiness, an inner life in constant need of repair, and salvation. This has fused with Evangelical Christianity and resulted in the rise of “Christianity as lifestyle management.”



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

Lifestyle Management

Look Within Yourself

We are born innocent, happy, and whole. Our inner child or inner self is good.

Do Not Conform

Any external restrictions make us unhappy, giving us low self-esteem.

Throw Off All Authority

Escape from these external restrictions in order to discover our inner self, which is good and can guide us.

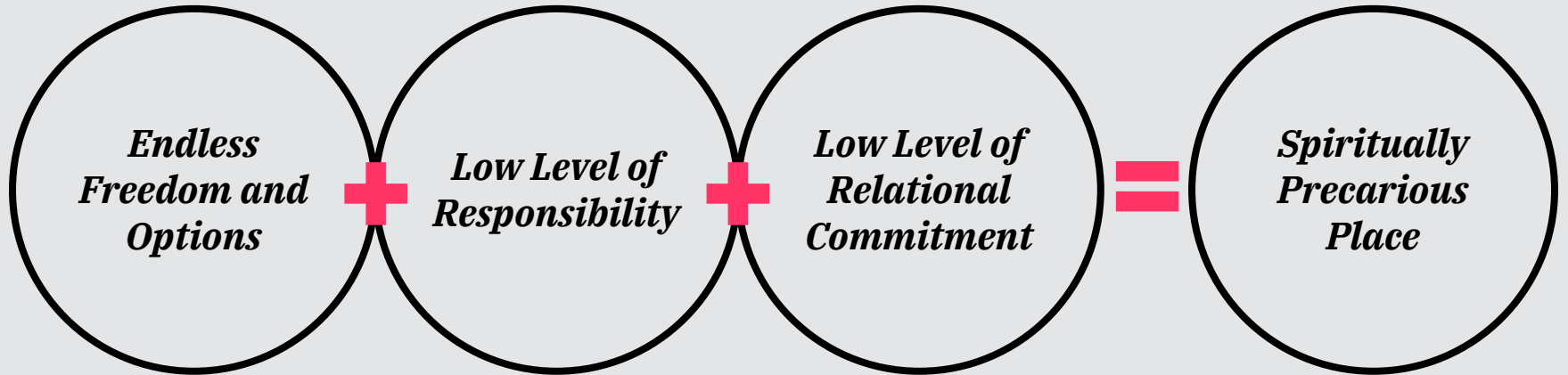
Pursue Pleasure

Find pleasure and meaning through discovery of missing elements.



02 _ INFECTED EVANGELICALISM

Which Leads To...





03

Postmodern-Shaped Sexuality

Hyper-Individualism In a Hyper-Sexualized Culture



03 _ POSTMODERN-SHAPED SEXUALITY



The moral structure of our society regards traditional sexual codes as **oppressive and life denying and places a premium on **the individual's right** to define his or her existence.**



03 _ POSTMODERN-SHAPED SEXUALITY



Many people, while rejecting any explicit belief in God or any other absolute, invariably set up certain ideals as normative—and then invest these ideals with an absoluteness that mimics and parallels every movement of religion.

Ronald Rolheiser



03 _ POSTMODERN-SHAPED SEXUALITY

Criticism of homosexuality is now homophobia. Criticism of transgenderism is now transphobia.

The person who objects to homosexual practice is actually objecting to homosexual identity. This is seen as a moral offense by a culture that widely accepts homosexual practice as legitimate



04 **The Antidote to Postmodernism**

Recovering a Biblical Worldview



04 _ ANTIDOTE TO POSTMODERNISM

~~Lifestyle Management~~

~~Look Within Yourself~~

~~We are born innocent, happy, and whole. Our inner child or inner self is good.~~

~~Do Not Conform~~

~~Any external restrictions make us unhappy, giving us low self-esteem.~~

~~Throw Off All Authority~~

~~Escape from these external restrictions in order to discover our inner self, which is good and can guide us.~~

~~Pursue Pleasure~~

~~Find pleasure and meaning through discovery of missing elements.~~



04 _ ANTIDOTE TO POSTMODERNISM

A Biblical Worldview

God-Defined Vision

We recover our story, which is wholistic, leads to truth, and speaks to all of life

Spirit-Shaped Formation

We are spiritually formed, allowing the Spirit to transform us our hearts and minds

Willing Surrender

We live in light of the cross, laying down our lives, idols, and desires at the foot of the cross

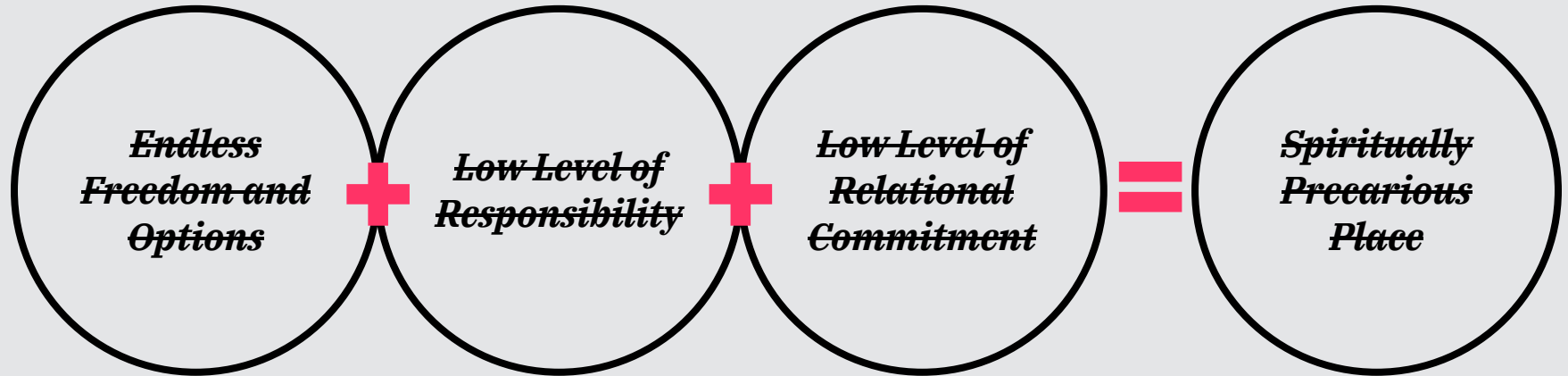
Sacrificial Mission

We join God in his mission to bring His Kingdom to earth and redeem all of creation



04 _ ANTIDOTE TO POSTMODERNISM

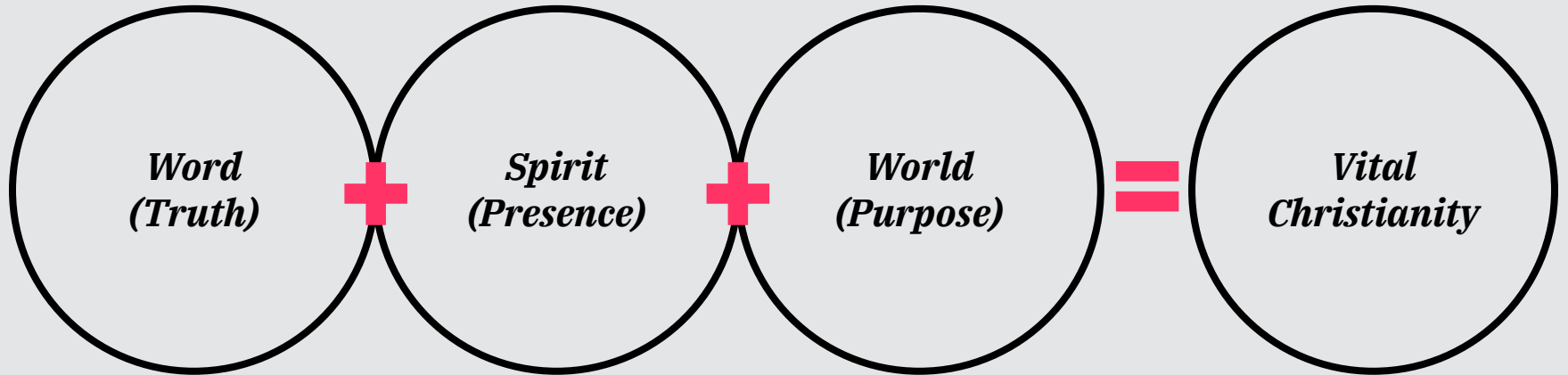
~~Postmodern Evangelicalism~~





04 _ ANTIDOTE TO POSTMODERNISM

A Biblical Worldview





CITY CHURCH TULSA
City University
2021 Spring Classes