

CHRISTIAN ENGAGEMENT

IN A WORLD LIKE OURS

1

How did we get here?

	Premodernism	Modernism	Postmodernism
Epistemology "How do we know anything?"			
Hermeneutics "How do we study the Bible?"			
Metanarrative "What gives meaning to life?"			

“ We are no longer living in a modern world where Christianity is intellectually suspect but morally acceptable. **We are now in a postmodern world where Christianity is rejected as morally bankrupt** (and most of the time still intellectually suspect). In other words, Christianity is not sidelined because it is religious but because its moral claims frequently run contrary to new expressions of social progress and moral diversity. While many moral expressions are applauded in the public square, traditional Christian morality is not often discussed in polite company ”

- Stephen Presley, *Cultural Sanctification: Engaging the World Like the Early Church*, 5.

2

Why does it matter?

1. Culture has already _____ us and our neighbors, whether or not we are aware of it.

- Culture forms our _____
- Culture shapes our _____
- Culture _____ itself

3. Christians in a post-Christian world have the opportunity to live out what we say we believe.

1. People in a post-Christian world are not fooled by the misguided _____ of modernism, but value _____.
2. People in a post-Christian world are looking for _____ and _____, and are willing to talk about it.

We cultivate a desire and competency to engage, because a post-Christian, postmodern world is ripe for Christian engagement.

Where do we go from here?

- Joshua D. Chatraw, *Telling a Better Story: How to Talk About God in a Skeptical Age*, 25-26

“If other people’s way of thinking remains completely foreign to us, we will inevitably become overly defensive, angry, or discouraged when trying to speak to them about our faith. Frustrated by an ability to communicate our beliefs effectively, we may experience self-doubt, fear, resentment, or apathy. Trading in the humble boldness that Christ has called us to, the Christian chooses to either live out a private faith or an angry faith. And our witness is rarely effective when we’re fearful of and angry at the people we’re supposed to be reaching.”

- _____ – “Is Christianity even true?”
- _____ – “I don’t want to be hateful or intolerant, so I’ll just keep quiet”
- _____ – “People are insane and are ruining culture”
- _____ – “People won’t listen, so why bother?”

about cultural engagement.

3. Understanding our world guards us from _____

- Kevin J. Vanhoose, “What is Everyday Theology?: How and Why Christians Should Read Culture,” in *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*, 19.

“We share a similar situation, but we inhabit it differently. Though his property is adjacent to mine, his world is miles away. He is ultimately “other” to me. If I am to love my neighbor as myself and thus fulfill what Jesus calls the second greatest commandment, then I will have to work hard to understand him.”

2. Understanding our world equips us to _____ our neighbors.