

Evangelism in a Postmodern World

By Santiago Lange



As Christians in a „postmodern era“ open to a vast marketplace of ideas and spirituality we are called to demonstrate God’s amazing grace and radical love in action so that the world may see the light of our Savior reflected in and through us. In our interactions we should consider that the „postmodern“ mind (some would argue we are actually in a post truth culture) is not so much interested in a Christianity preaching eternity as it is in a Christianity that is able to provide peace of mind and security in the here and now. Pessimism and skepticism are connected to “postmodernism“, but there is also a spiritual hunger. Objective truth is not central to the worldview but imagination, feelings, and experience are. Moral authority is suspect and personal preference defines truth. Paradoxically, in the Western world, the modern lifestyle has simultaneously created a global uniformity of a sort where „postmodern truth“ is often in practice shaped by social groups. In this rather hodgepodge, complex, confusing, fragmented, pluralistic and „collective individual“ environment we find our evangelistic opportunity and the prod to be willing to engage and wrestle with differing yet intertwining ideas and experiences so as to be able to contextualize THE Gospel in ways that people can personally understand and accept as relevant. This may well require a high level of creativity and flexibility while remaining faithful to orthodox scriptural revelation.

Respect for other views and relationship building is essential, not as some missional ploy, but simply because we genuinely care for people. We can then trust God to lead us to the right opportunities where we can begin extending Kingdom invitations and share the liberating power and light of the unchanging Gospel with others. At the end of the day our advice to “postmoderns” must be for them to live with THE Truth and to live by THE Truth, that Truth being Jesus.

Graham Johnston writes ...

„The introduction of postmodernity has proved of some benefit to Christian faith. The Enlightenment sought to relegate matters of faith to the rear of the bus as either insignificant or nonexistent. Postmodernity returns value to faith and affirms the nurturing of our spiritual being as vital to humankind. Unfortunately, with the loss of truth, people will now seek faith without boundaries, categories, or definition. The old parameters of belief do not exist. As a result, people will be increasingly open to knowing God, but on their own terms.“ **(Preaching to a Postmodern World,” Graham Johnston, p.31).**