

Jesus & (Post Modern) Culture

Culture: *The arts, beliefs, customs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought created by a people or group at a particular time.*
(*The American Heritage Dictionary*, July 1987)

Characteristics of Post Modern Culture (Neil Cole):

- Relationships over Tasks
- Journey over Destination
- Authenticity over Excellence
- Experience over Proposition
- Mystery over Solution
- Diversity over Uniformity

In other words Post Modern's are subjective, relativistic (no absolutes/certainty) pluralistic, with "*no overarching explanations of the human condition such as claimed by Christianity or any other social or political order.*"

Consequently:

- Evangelism needs to seriously **listen** and ask questions rather than only **tell**.
- Followers of Jesus need to entertain "doubts" both theirs and ours (cf. Tim Keller—*The Reason for God*, pp. xvi-xvii) rather than come across as "having it all figured out."
- Stories—theirs, mine, and The **Story** of Jesus becomes a priority in communication more so than "propositions" and "arguments."
- Spiritual Formation—being formed into the likeness of Christ—is paramount. Transformation—not behavior modification—is the goal.
- Belonging may proceed Believing (and certainly Behaving) since most often Community is more important than Individualism.

Recommended Reading:

Tim Keller: *-The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*
-The Prodigal God

Todd Hunter: *-Christianity Beyond Belief: Following Jesus for the Sake of Others*

John Burke: *-No Perfect People Allowed*

Scripture:

John 3:16-17; John 15:15-16 (Framework)
Mark 12:28-34 (Essence)
Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 19:1-10 (Examples)

Table Talk:

1. Who is Zacchaeus in your circle of relationships? How can you touch them with Jesus' love?
2. In what other ways can we reach out to Post Moderns?