

The Truth Project  
Lesson 2—Part 2: Philosophy and Ethics  
10/16/08

Review: God has created us so there is an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ connection between our ideas about the nature of the world \_\_\_\_\_ and our understanding of right and wrong behavior \_\_\_\_\_. Last week-- \_\_\_\_\_, this week-- \_\_\_\_\_.

Biblical basis \_\_\_\_\_: It's a warning to Christians.

I. Post modernism

There are all sorts of sizes and subtleties of postmodernism but for our purposes, postmodernism is saying \_\_\_\_\_. There is nothing outside the \_\_\_\_\_.

Problem: \_\_\_\_\_. This is an ethics problem and a philosophy problem.

Passage: Psalm 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_.

"Postmodernists claim we can have no 'grand metanarrative' that makes sense of reality. Since there's no such thing as truth, all principles are merely personal preferences. As professor Ed Veith explains, the postmodernist claims that all you can do is try to impose your preferences on others before they impose theirs on you."

Chuck Colson, Christianity Today, December, 2003

II. Ethical Implications of "pomo" thought: there is no \_\_\_\_\_ for ethical or moral behavior.

A. Who makes the rules? \_\_\_\_\_ makes \_\_\_\_\_

B. Assertion: "Every person has to define \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for themselves"

"The 20<sup>th</sup> century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes of human history: that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century were practiced by those who believed that religion caused intolerance and violence."

Alister McGrath

*The Twilight of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World*

Rebuttal: "Is there anyone in the world right now \_\_\_\_\_ you believe they should \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what they personally believe about the \_\_\_\_\_ of their behavior?"

Answer: Yes, of course!

Response: "Doesn't that mean that you do believe there is some kind of \_\_\_\_\_, that is 'there' that is not defined by us, that must be abided by regardless of what \_\_\_\_\_"

Dr. Provine: Ethics can be robust because of \_\_\_\_\_ meaning.

C. Today it's either through \_\_\_\_\_.

“...secular grounds for moral positions are no less controversial than religious grounds, and a very strong case can be made that all moral positions are at least implicitly religious. Ironically, insisting that religious reasoning be excluded from the public square is itself a controversial ‘sectarian’ point of view. When you come out into the public square it is impossible to leave your convictions about ultimate values **behind.**”

Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*

III. How do we respond as Christ followers?

1. Recommit-- \_\_\_\_\_

2. Renew-- \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 12:2

Questions:

1. Where have you bumped into postmodern thought?
2. How can we apply the Col 2:8 warning?
3. How can we renew our minds per Romans 12:2?