

## 5-3-1 Assignment Chapter 5

### Questions

1. What is the postmodern understanding of knowledge?
2. Why is the questioning of metanarratives important to postmodern thought?
3. In postmodern thought, why is deconstruction necessary?
4. How has postmodern thought influenced the realm of religion and spirituality?
5. Why is the prized postmodern virtue of tolerance ultimately a virtue with limits?

### Answers

1. That all explanations of constructions of reality are not objectively true and that people are unable to operate outside of their constructions of reality.
2. Metanarratives are the foundational constructions that people use to explain reality. Thus, since reality is not objective, metanarratives must be questioned.
3. It is necessary because there is no correspondence between the language people use and the external world they seek to describe.
4. Postmodernism allows for religious fragmentation and pluralism; meaning that spirituality is now expressed through an individual person's own desire to incorporate whatever elements from any religious tradition (even conflicting practices) into their own framework of spirituality.
5. It is limited because tolerance is often withheld to people who hold beliefs and morals that claim objective truth.

### Terms

1. metanarrative – the grand ideas or foundational constructs that people use to explain reality and bring coherence to the world.
2. deconstruction – a mode of analysis that purports to take apart all expressions of objective meaning
3. nihilism – the belief that since everything is a constructed reality, nothing truly has real meaning

### Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger introduces and expounds on how postmodernism has influenced society and thought. Rejecting the modernist notion that all truth is ultimately objective, postmodernism questions modernistic thoughts and deconstructs them to reveal that all reality is ultimately subjective and constructed by one's own experience of the world. While there are positive and negative characteristics of postmodernism, Christians must be careful not to become entrapped by postmodern assumptions and agenda.