

TH604: Christian Ethics: OA

Spring 2023

Choosing the Good, Chapter 5

February 22, 2023

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Questions

1. Who are some of the major intellects of Postmodernity?
2. Name the shift in Richard Rorty's thinking about postmodernity.
3. How does Modernity differ from Postmodernity?
4. How would you describe a hermeneutic of suspicion?
5. What is meant by the assault on metanarrative?

Answers

1. Jean-Francois Lyotard, Jacques Derrida, and Michael Foucault.
2. He employed the term neo pragmatism, and believes the question to ask is not, "What is right, but rather, "What is useful?" How humanity finds ways to cope with reality (110).
3. Postmodernity is a reaction against rationalism, the pursuit of truth, and questions the Enlightenment and modern scientific agenda.
4. This is defined as one being suspicious of ideological foundations of all philosophical interpretations, as they are coercive in nature.
5. Postmodernity brought with it the questioning of the metanarrative, particularly the biblical metanarrative. Thus, neither intellectual or cultural unity could be possible in a pluralistic society and are replaced with local narratives.

Terms

- **Deconstruction** - analysis that takes apart all expressions of objective meaning as masks for cultural power, oppression, and unstable linguistic constructions (109).
- **Metanarrative** - grand ideas which explain reality.
- **Logocentrism** - Western culture's consumption of reason, meaning and truth (109).

Summary

Postmodernists seek to eradicate the biblical metanarrative - the Missio Dei is the central theme and the metanarrative of the bible in its entirety. Thus, Postmodernity is at odds with Christian morality and ethics. The emphasis is on the self and what humanity not only deems is right but will also attack anything or anyone that cultivates any guilt in the quest for personal autonomy.