

5-3-1 Assignment on Hollinger Chapter 5

Questions

1. What is postmodern?
2. What is the place of universal truth in postmodern thought?
3. What is the overall position of postmodernism on social structures?
4. What are metanarratives?
5. In postmodernism, where does the interpretation of the text lie?

Answers

1. Hollinger describes postmodern in a fundamental manner as a reaction to the modern in the different disciplines. However, it is clarified that it is not simply a reaction to the modern but has been defined by thinkers that adhere to its ideas. As such, it has its own principles that have been set apart in history from the modern. It is further a reaction against the pursuit of truth, certainty, and rationalism.
2. Universal truth in postmodern thought is questioned and challenged. There are even those that question the existence of universal truth itself.
3. Social structures in postmodern thought are seen to control and maintain systems of power over other groups.
4. Metanarratives are grand ideas or foundational constructs that people use to explain reality and bring coherence to the world.
5. In postmodernism, based on its idea of deconstruction, all of the interpretation of the text lies on the reader.

Terms

Deconstruction- the concept most linked with postmodern thought mostly associated with the writer Jacques Derrida, in which he draws from psychoanalysis, linguistics, and the philosophy of Nietzsche to question the ability of the reader to know the intentions of the author. Its aim is to take apart all objective meanings and establishing that all is a text of linguistic construction designed for cultural power and rationalization of oppression.

Relativism- the idea that there are no moral universals in all times and places.

Utilitarian forms of ethics- an approach to ethics based upon either rationality or a mathematics-like quantification of consequences, independent of religious authority or content.

Fragmentation- the sense that all things are held together by unified systems and ideals challenged by life as it is segmented into different parts.

Summary

Chapter 5 in Hollinger's book *Choosing the Good* explains postmodern thought and how it affects all the aspects of humanity. Postmodern thought has brought with it ideas that question all that has come before and built-in society. Postmodernism questions universal truth, morality, objectivity, and even the ability of people to interpret what reality is. Among the ideas that have been brought together with postmodernism is relativism, whereby universal morality doesn't exist in all times and places. The philosophers that publicized their ideas that form postmodern thought questioned modernism in many aspects, as well as in many disciplines. Religion itself has not been left untouched by postmodernism, thus affecting Christianity and Christian ethics.