

## Five

1. **What is the complexity of defining postmodernism?** A common theme must be established between disciplines such as history, sociology, art, architecture, philosophy, literature and theology.
2. **What sentiments does postmodernism hold to rationalism?** Because interpretations and attempts to define reality are intimately linked to power and control, many postmodern advocates call for a hermeneutic of suspicion (of the ideological backdrop)
3. **What is the consequence of postmodernity on ethics?** Introduces subjectivity to truth and morality; creating truth as a subjective perspective of an individual
4. **What effect does postmodernism have on community?** Fragmentation of thought becomes normative; the world itself is experienced in fragmentary form
5. **How has postmodernism impacted religion?** Rather than institutionalized religion, postmodernism has inspired “spirituality” drawn from various sources and implemented in a variety of ways

## Three

**Deconstruction:** a postmodern approach intended to get to the intention of authors, to “take apart all expression of objective meaning” as a linguistic method

**Relativism:** the result of a plurality of worldviews which is also the apparent/inherent overriding posture of the postmodern society

**Tolerance:** A fair and objective attitude toward those whose opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality, etc. differ from one’s own; freedom from bigotry

## One

As Christians we must be committed to a form of toleration and civility concerning matters of difference in society and among our own communities. Ultimately tolerance as the prime virtue has no way to ground our moral life and prevent the worst abuses imaginable. Therapeutic means have become both a secular and spiritual exercise to create linkages between psychological well-being and morality. This leads to confusion between ethics and pastoral care, for example. Postmodernity may be viewed as an extension of the model world or as a new era. In some positive regard, postmodernism is a freedom from moral legalism; on the other hand, postmodernity presents very real concerns which may undermine traditional and Christian values. While postponed arity has become mainstream in our day, it does not mean that modernity has ended.