

Worldview: Postmodernism

Genesis Perez

Alliance University

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Introduction

Postmodernism is a worldview that emerged in the mid-to-late 20th century as a reaction to modernism. It is characterized by a rejection of the modernist belief in the power of reason and progress and a skepticism of grand narratives or metanarratives that seek to explain the world or history. Instead, postmodernism emphasizes the importance of individual perspectives and cultural differences and challenges the idea of universal truth or reality. Individuals with postmodern worldviews are frequently driven to communicate who they truly are and what makes them special (*Postmodern worldview: Qualities and room for Growth*, n.d).

Self-expression and personal growth are common ways for postmoderns to discover personal meaning. Overall, postmodernism as a worldview is characterized by a rejection of fixed meanings and a celebration of diversity and complexity. It seeks to challenge traditional ways of thinking and encourage critical thinking and self-reflection.

God

Postmodernism, as a worldview, tends to be skeptical of traditional notions of God and religion. Postmodernists view the concept of God as one of many competing narratives that attempt to explain the world, rather than a universal truth or absolute reality. Postmodernism challenges the idea of a single, unified God, instead emphasizing the importance of individual perspectives and cultural differences. Postmodernists argue that the idea of God is a social construct that is created and perpetuated by human beings and that it is shaped by cultural and historical context. The entire notion of God's immutability seems to be under attack by postmodern thought, which emphasizes the dynamic and constructive component in all of our ideas and conceptions. It is also asserted that conceptions of the (religious) life-world serve as the foundation for thinking about God and that these conceptions interact dialectically with

concepts to inform and guide their development. Hence, the notion of God's immutability seems to be consistent with the notion of God's otherness, as being in opposition to everything that can be experienced in the universe (as changeable). As a result, postmodern thought enables a constructive affirmation of unchangeability as a fundamental component in the Christian understanding of God(Henriksen, 2003). In summary, postmodernism views the concept of God as a cultural construct that is subject to scrutiny and deconstruction, rather than a universally accepted truth.

Person

Postmodernism is a broad and complex cultural and philosophical movement that resists simple definitions. However, one of the key characteristics of postmodernism is its rejection of grand narratives or universal truths that claim to explain human experience. From a postmodern perspective, the concept of the "person" is seen as a social construct rather than an essential, fixed characteristic of human nature. Postmodernism emphasizes the fluidity and diversity of human experience, rejecting any essentialist or fixed views of human identity. Postmodernists recognize that individuals are shaped by a wide range of factors, including their cultural backgrounds, social contexts, and historical experiences. Postmodernism disbelieves in all notions of the supernatural and metaphysical reality and places people at the center of all realities, knowledge, and values. They hold that gender, socioeconomic class, and race are the three primary cultural characteristics that specifically influence how national and local cultures form human identity(Forghani et al., 2015). A human differs from other humans in nature and reality based on where he was born, what society and culture he was raised in, and what values and the educational system he embraced. Postmodernism generally sees people as complicated, socially constructed beings whose identities are influenced by a variety of cultural, social, and

historical circumstances. The emphasis is instead placed on the fluid and dynamic aspect of the human experience, rejecting any attempts to essentialize or fix human identity.

World/Environment

The world and environment are viewed from a postmodern perspective as social constructs that are influenced by cultural, economic, and political variables. Postmodernism rejects anyone, predetermined vision of the natural world and instead highlights the significance of appreciating the various ways in which people see and engage with their surroundings. Traditional hierarchical structures that are founded on dominance and control over nature are also questioned by postmodernism. When seen from a postmodernist viewpoint, environmentalism may appear to be meaningless. Throughout the past several years, opinions on environmentalism have changed, and diverse people have developed varied definitions of the word and concept. Yet, a generally acknowledged definition of environmentalism is a movement that aids in safeguarding and preserving the natural world, which is distinguished from the artificial one we have built with our man-made structures, such as our houses, neighborhoods, cities, etc. Nonetheless, this would be a rather constrained perspective of environmentalism in the postmodernist context. Postmodernists believe that everything on Earth, including the plastics and smog we make, is a natural part of the planet. Since everything we do in this situation is natural, attempting to save the earth is analogous to attempting to save nature from itself. That serves no purpose whatsoever (*Futile endeavors: Environmentalism in a postmodern world*, 2014). Postmodernism sees the world and environment as dynamic, complicated, and molded by a variety of cultural, economic, and political variables. It highlights the significance of appreciating the variety of human experiences and viewpoints and rejecting any efforts to rule or manipulate the natural world.

Health/Wellbeing

Health and happiness are viewed from a postmodern standpoint as social constructs that are influenced by cultural, economic, and political variables. By rejecting any one, predetermined definition of what it is to be healthy or well, postmodernism places an emphasis on the significance of understanding the various ways in which people interpret and experience health and wellbeing. This viewpoint views the contemporary expert as not just being questioned but also reduced to a single more or less reliable source. It is argued that medical sociology must abandon its intellectual foundations and adopt an approach to health and illness that sees these concepts as being formed through a variety of discursive acts. Even good health shifts from being a given to being a possibility(Karki, 2020).

Nursing/Care

Postmodernism offers a variety of revisions to nursing practice, such as humanism, circumstances, and a borderless, multi-voiced world, modifications to the definition of knowledge, and lifelong learning. The postmodernist reality for nursing is a vast one without boundaries, encompassing the extraction of meaning's horizon, the significance of authority, personality traits, ethics, care-related communication, environment, sustainability, aesthetics, and interpretation(Zardosht, 2020). In general, a postmodernist view of nursing emphasizes the significance of appreciating the variety of human experiences and viewpoints in the profession. It questions the conventional power structures in healthcare and highlights the significance of giving patients and clients the freedom to manage their own care. In order to enhance the general health of people and communities, it is also important to address social, cultural, and economic variables that affect health outcomes.

Postmodernism vs Biblical worldview

The postmodern and biblical worldviews have profoundly different interpretations of reality and the human condition. While postmodernism promotes the value of appreciating the diversity of human experiences and viewpoints, a biblical worldview is predicated on the conviction that there is one overarching, universal truth that is revealed through scripture. For instance, in the book of John 14:6, Jesus says "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This statement represents a belief in a single, objective truth that is applicable to all people. Contrarily, postmodernism emphasizes the value of valuing the variety of human experiences and viewpoints while rejecting the notion of a single, objective reality. There are no objective truths, according to the postmodernist concept of "subjectivity," which claims that all knowledge is subjective. Ultimately, the differences between postmodernism and biblical worldview highlight the complexity of human experience and the many different ways in which people understand and interpret the world around them.

Conclusion

The postmodernist worldview emphasizes the significance of acknowledging the diversity of human experiences and viewpoints, which can have a profound impact on how nurses care for their patients. Instead of imposing a singular, rigid image of nursing and care, nurses must be able to comprehend and respond to the specific needs and views of their patients. In order to provide effective care to patients from a postmodern perspective, nurses must be able to communicate with their patients in a way that is respectful and sensitive to their individual needs and experiences. This includes recognizing and valuing the diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds of patients and working to ensure that care is individualized and culturally sensitive.

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