

Books  
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Books come from two perspectives of the modern and postmodern worldview.

A lot of the changes that take place in the church comes from the changing worldview around us.

Sweet talks about the shift from the modern to the postmodern culture.

Most of his book is based upon the changes in ministry.

| <u>Modern</u>                   | <u>Postmodern</u>                       |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Logical – rational              | Symbol, metaphor, story, experience     |
| Philosophical – theology        |   |
| Single cause – metanarrative    | Multi-causal – individual narrative     |
| Newtonian physics               | Einstein physics (theory of relativity) |
| Freud                           | Carl Jung                               |
| Church – Church extension       | Community – people group                |
| Clergy                          | Laity                                   |
| National denomination – loyalty | Glocal                                  |

Jon's experience in the seminary at Elkhart for the Mennonites.

Professor encouraged him to do a paper on EGW.

One lady in the class queried about her women's position: I guess your church would be open to women's ordination.

Kelsey – book author

The kind of church that Michael Knecht has created is postmodern culture church.

He is a postmodern himself.

He doesn't want to be senior pastor – the postmodern mind distrust structure and authority.

The world tends to distrust church structure and hierarchical organizations.

Books on business nowadays talk more on authority on a horizontal model rather than hierarchical.

At what point do we confront postmodernism and where does mission fit together.

The openness to divine activity and the divine middle is much more pronounced.

It doesn't have a confined system, but is more open.

There is opportunity and danger in the pomo culture.

Culturally, it's difficult to show the uniqueness of Christ in the pomo culture.

Jesus is the way! Not a way...

The postmodern thing is a rebellion against the modern structure and strictures.

Some things in the gospel that we always say no to postmoderns.

Next point:

Postmodernism is the real reason for the growth of the charismatic movement.

Edinboro—over 200,000 denominations in Pentecostalism

The very fracturing of it means there are a lot of local connotations.

Meeting the Challenge of Pentecostalism: article in a brochure from Lutheranism.

Openness to experiencing worship has affected all of Christendom.

SDA's have not really spoken about the tremendous influence on all of Christendom that we have had.

What did all of Christendom believe about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming in the 1900's?

We alone were proclaiming the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ.

Basically, SDA's have won that battle.

Just like the Pentecostals have won the battle of worship in Christendom.

I think there is growing recognition about the Sabbath.

There is a church in Loma Linda who works on winning backslidden SDA's that has a Sabbath service.

Openness from other denominations: they are listening to our understanding of the state of the dead from World Federation Lutheran president in Geneva: That's what we have begun to believe.

In a sense Catholicism is pre-Adventism.

### Discernment

How will deal with people who come to you and say, "I think God came and told me this."

When God comes and talks to people, he reveals things to individuals rather than others.

Another danger is the issue of "I have a message for the church."

First question of that person: Well, what has God said to you about yourself?

Is it in connection with God's norm of scripture?

We need to trust the Holy Spirit with the people of God.

Discernment is more community for me....

Example of the Mong tribe in Thailand...issue came up.

A lot of them wear a big silver necklaces, if rich, they wear more.

Sort of wear the bank account around your neck.

What are you going to do with these people, for they have huge necklaces on?

How do you deal with that?

We decided, let's allow them to decide as a group.

The leader of the tribe says I don't know.

So, we had a big meeting and the folks came down out of the mountains.

We talked about arguments on both sides.

We left and encouraged them to make the decisions by themselves.

Pray and talk about it.

Two questions: one is everyday usage and another is for the special holidays.

Guess what they decided?

No to everyday and yes for the festivals.

25 years ago.

In those days people came up from the union and the community made a decision for us.

Community with prayer and God's guidance.

Do you know people in your church who have the gift of the Spirit?

Bring the community together, maybe the elders, to expend discernment over this issue.