

Short Tour of Big Ideas That Shape Youth Culture
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I. INTRODUCTION:

BASIC PROPOSITION: The key in _____ is not what we say _____ but what they _____. (cf. Matthew 13:4-23)

II. Worldview of the Culture: Three Key Elements

- A. **Paganism** - No such thing as _____.
- B. **Pluralism** - No such thing as _____.
- C. **Postmodernism** - No such thing as _____.

"The sun was shining outside and through the crack at the top of the door there came a sunbeam. From where I stood that beam of light, with the specks of dust floating in it, was the most striking thing in the place. Everything else was almost pitch black. I was seeing the beam, not seeing things *by* it [emphasis added].

"Then I moved so that whole beam fell on my eyes. Instantly the whole previous picture vanished. I saw no tool shed, and (above all) no beam. Instead I saw, framed in the irregular cranny at the top of the door, green leaves moving on the branches of a tree outside and beyond that, ninety-odd million miles away, the sun. Looking along the beam, and looking at the beam are very different experiences.

"But this is only a very simple example of the difference between looking at and looking along. A young man meets a girl. The whole world looks different when he meets her. Her voice reminds him of something he has been trying to remember all his life, and ten minutes' casual chat with her is more precious than all the favors that all other women in the world could grant. He is, as they say, 'in love'. Now comes a scientist and describes this young man's genes and a recognized biological stimulus. That is the difference between looking *along* and looking *at*....

"As soon as you have grasped this simple distinction, it raises a question. **You get one experience of a thing when you look along it and another when you look at it. Which is the 'true' or 'valid' experience?...."**



(Some of) the Key Tenets of Postmodernism:

(1) *Postmodernity rejects the notion of objectivity.* We cannot speak objectively about

reality because we all see reality differently.

(2) **Knowledge is uncertain.** If objectivity is an impossibility, then all knowledge is subjective.

(3) **All-inclusive systems of explanation (metanarratives) are suspect.**

(4) **Knowledge is not inherently good.** Postmodernists reject as naive the idea that more knowledge is always a good thing.

(5) **Truth is defined by, and for, the community.** Postmodernism rejects the modernist model of the isolated knower in favor of discerning truth through a community-based approach.

(6) **We can only begin to arrive at the meaning of a text or an idea through the process of deconstruction.** Postmodernists argue that whatever meanings words have has been vested in them by the surrounding culture.

(7) **Postmodernism believes that there is more than one way to know.** Modernism's over-dependence on reason, and outright dismissal of other means of knowing, unjustly rejects the possibility that we might gain knowledge by intuition, metaphor, story, feeling and experience.

III. So what?:

A. Be _____ without being _____ (1 Cor. 9:20-21).

B. _____ before you _____.

C. Use the _____ that are _____ before you _____ the _____ (Acts 17:16ff)

D. Focus on the _____ and not on the _____ .

E. Trust the _____.

Universal Human Quests		
Longing to know and be known 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a	"How do I relate to other people?"	C _____
Longing to know who I am Jeremiah 1:4-10, 1Tim. 4:12	"Who am I and who do I want to be?"	C _____
Longing to know why I'm here Ecclesiastes 1:2-10	"What will I do with my life; do I want my life to count for something?"	C _____
Longing to know God Psalm 42:1-11	"Is there a God, and does He care about me?"	C _____



Dr. Duffy Robbins

- Professor of Youth Ministry, Eastern University, St Davids, PA
- Lots of friends on Facebook (most of whom he's never met.. which is why they want to be his friend!)
- M.Div., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, MA
- Doctor of Ministry, Youth and Family, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA
- Platinum Level: Chick-fil-a
- Author of numerous books and articles, including:
 - Ministry of Nurture: A Guide to Building Teenage Disciples
 - Everyday Object Lessons
 - Youth Ministry Nuts and Bolts: mastering Ministry behind the Scenes
 - There's a Teenager in My House (ed. Wayne Rice)
 - Speaking to Teenagers: How to Think About, Create and Deliver Great Messages
 - Enjoy the Silence: A Thirty Day Experiment in Listening to God
 - This Way to Youth Ministry: An Introduction to the Adventure
- Speaks around the world at:
 - Youth events (this is his favorite type of event),
 - Family camps (this is his favorite type of event),
 - Men's retreats (this is his favorite type of event),
 - Staff training workshops ((this is his favorite type of event),
 - Youthworker training (this is his favorite type of event),
 - Pastors' conferences (this is his favorite type of event),
 - National spokesman for Amway Hair Care Products
- What Others are Saying About Duffy Robbins:
 - "Duffy who?" - Billy Graham
 - "Al the guys in the insurgency love him.." - Osama Ben Laden
 - "Makes me want to drive my car into a tree." - Tiger Woods
 - "We've used him and there were very few complaints" – Jason Hoffer, Spring Hill Camp
 - "I've already told you twice, I don't know the guy. " - the Apostle Peter
 - "Of all the speakers we've ever used, this guy is one of them." Nate Parks, Camp Berea
 - "I hope this guy NEVER retires!" - Bret Favre, Minnesota Vikings, and AARP Fantasy Team