

Transcript: Chapters 7-8

Modernism and Postmodernism

“What is Progress?” is The question we approach this section.

For those who are called “Modernists,” Progress is associated with Evolution. In order for things to evolve, they must change. Evolution was seen as destiny, as the forward push to new heights. It was desirable. It was inevitable. But it could not come without change.

That meant that everything old needed to step aside. In order to be progress, it needed to be different.

The Futurists didn’t spring from nothing. They were the result of a growing acceptance of evolution as bringing a better future. Everyone looked around and saw technology progressing and economies getting better. Instead of praising God, they praised man and nature, and saw it as a result of man evolving and getting smarter.

Unfortunately, that same thing is happening today. Those who are under 30 in particular see technology getting better and better, and they themselves as being smarter because they are able to use this amazing technology and are convinced they are just smarter than anything that has gone before because they are evolving.

I have to stop here and suggest that this is an error in assumptions. First, there is no scientific evidence that man in general is getting smarter. There is even good evidence we are getting more dependent on our technology, and the combination of technology and average intelligence is helping us appear to be smarter, rather than be smarter. For example, to get into Harvard in the 1600s a prospective student needed to be able to translate the Classics from the original Latin and Greek, as well as translate the Greek New Testament from the original language. Any takers on that one?

Second, the whole concept of man getting smarter flies in the face of what Scripture tells us. Scripture says flat out that Solomon was wiser than anyone before or after him according to 1 Kings 3 and 2 Kings 4. That includes us.

Not only that, Evolution itself flies in the face of what Scripture tells us. So it comes down to a matter of what you believe—Scripture or Evolution.

Ideas matter. They have consequences, and the best test of what you believe is what you act on. If you think your generation is the smartest ever and what you do will make the world more evolved, it will affect what you do. That’s WHY what you do is the best test of what you believe.

The Modernists believed the way to evolve was to destroy the past, and while some thought war could cleanse the world of the weak, they thought it would eventually not

be necessary because man would eventually evolve to the point it wasn't necessary. World War I was named "The war to end all wars," as the last time it would be necessary.

But World War II came along and they began to wonder if man would destroy himself before he was allowed to evolve enough to not need war. They were called Postmodernists, and were much more disillusioned with life.

Today, there is such a strong belief in Evolution that they still see man as surviving, but they believe that the only way to end war is to have a one world government strong enough to prevent future wars. Their government of choice is fueled by the teachings of Plato, through the writings of Karl Marx and Mao.

For Christians, we need to remind ourselves that our hope is in Christ, not government, and that man's governments will never be the answer to man's problems.

Read on.