

What in the World Is Going On? Modernism

1Pet 3.15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

* **One** of Solomon's major themes in Proverbs is the opposite

_____.

* **Before we** launch into that, we have to do some ground work, because we live in a culture doesn't believe in _____ and _____ any more as objective realities.

* **"What in** the world is going on in our culture?" This is a question for Christians in every _____ & _____.

* **Peter says:**

1) Don't _____. Fear _____, not man.

2) Live out the _____; have a clear conscience. They slander you as "_____." They said the exact same thing about the first century Christians. If we live and speak the truth, we are _____ of humanity.

3) Be ready to give a defense, a good _____ for the hope that is in you. Do it in service to _____, and in humility to _____ (not arrogantly or caustically). To be ready, you have to _____ it through ahead of time.

Prov 26.4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.

* **What are** two ways to answer a fool according to his folly?

* **"What in** the world is going on in our culture today?" The answer in a word is "_____modernism," which means what?

* **Modernism** refers to the dominant, secular intellectual thought of the modern _____, beginning in the 1600s. It is the intellectual worldview of the En_____enment.

* **In the** late middle ages (1300-1400s), kings and popes vied with one another and ruled by claims of divine _____, which was an ancient _____ belief. By contrast, Israel's kings were to be in submission to the _____.

Deut 17.18 "[W]hen he sits on the throne of his kingdom, ... he shall write ... a copy of this law in a book ... 19 And ... he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law..., 20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left ..."

In the late middle ages, you essentially had ancient paganism with Christian _____ spread over the top.

* **The central** contention of the Reformers was that Christ exercises his authority on earth through his _____, the _____tures, to which all human authorities were called to submit. All human authority is thus _____sterial, not _____torial (1Tim 2.5). All human authority—marriage, family, church, society—is to be used within the limits and for the purposes of serving those under it, as prescribed by God in the Scriptures. Thus all people needed to _____ the Scriptures (Mat 4.4). All people were to take up the dominion mandate (Gen 1.28). Thus all callings were sacred; all of life was _____. Man needed to understand the _____, plants, animals, planets and stars. Because God made us in his image and spoke to Adam and Eve in a language they could understand, man had a basis for using his _____es and powers of observation and logic to build science and knowledge and technology.

* **The return** to Scripture made possible all the _____ of what we associate with the modern world— family values, political freedom, education, and scientific advances.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."
(Preamble to the Declaration of Independence)

* **The essence** of Enlightenment thought or **modernism** was _____ism—the belief that man, using his senses and his reason, could obtain _____ive knowledge, and thereby form a sufficient foundation for knowledge, meaning, purpose, ethics, freedom, and society.

Naturalism began as a philosophical _____ment 200 years before Darwin. God and divine revelation were ruled _____ up front and ridiculed as _____stition.

* **In the** 1700s, modernism began to _____apse of its own weight. Naturalistic man couldn't know anything _____ively outside of his own inner thoughts and feelings.

* **Darwin**, in his private letters, confided a "horrid _____" as to "whether the convictions of man's mind, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals, are of any value or at all trustworthy." *Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, vol. 1, Francis Darwin, ed. (New York: D. Appleton, 1898), 285 (quoted in *Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey, 243).

* **This set** the stage for _____modernism, but the full effects were not felt right away, for many people in Europe, and the U.S. were sincere orthodox _____ians.

* **No matter** what our philosophy, we all must live in the world _____ made — we must live in a real world with a real correlation between what's out there and our sense perceptions and mental processes. It's impossible to live any other way. That's one of the strongest _____monies of all, for we only have a basis for assuming what we all must assume if _____ has created the world, and if he has _____ken to us, telling us about himself, ourselves, the world he has created, and our place in it. So faith in God and in his word to us, which has been ridiculed so much, turns out not to be ridiculous at all, but the essential basis for _____thing.