

Beyond Crossroads: Wednesday, July 20 (7 - 8:30 PM)

"Who is our Neighbor? Let's Meet Them!"

In this session we will review key concepts about the post-modern context in which we are being a faith community and share our experiences of how Sanctuary is connecting with the community and doing evangelism in our context.

"Beyond Resistance" by John Dorhauer

"I dwell in possibility."

"Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door."

--Emily Dickenson

From Chapter 11: What, Then, Are We to Say about These Things?

- 1) Postmodernity isn't about your age, it is about your orientation
- 2) Postmoderns are not enemies of the church, but allies
- 3) If yours is a 2.0 Church, be the best darn 2.0 church you can be – shoot for 2.5, 2.8; don't try to be a 3.0 church – be in covenant with those who can be 3.0 church
- 4) You already have postmoderns worshipping with you weekly and they are probably staying out of love and obligation to the community (the question is are they being fed spiritually)
- 5) Discover your non-negotiables
- 6) Find out how it is you encounter the sacred (Love God)
- 7) Have a clear mission, a reason for why you exist
- 8) By-laws matter: build structures that support adaptability and leaders invested in the mission and values
- 9) Interdependence is biblical and fundamental; covenant is our calling
 - a) Cultivate partnerships and relationships with others who share your mission and values
 - b) The Institutional Church has a covenant to send the emerging church into the world

From Chapter 1: Death with Dignity

Three main ideas about postmoderns that are key to understanding why transformation in the church as we have practiced it is needed:

- a) **No Universal Truths:** What is true for you may or may not be true for me
 - i) Not going to invest in model of expert telling them answers while they remain passive

- ii) Everyone in the room has experience and ideas to offer – they expect their story to be valued
- iii) Atmosphere of participation and questioning is valued
- b) **Learn Differently than moderns** – technology, stimuli, brain changes
 - i) Expect drama, conflict, resolution
 - ii) Experience driven - Easily bored – need church to change with them
- c) **Do not trust institutions and authority** (probably the hardest for the church to cow with)
 - i) Not invested in institutional preservation, rules, authorities therefore not interested in spending their time on same
 - (1) ie: spiritual leaders don't need denominational credentials
 - ii) Smell hypocrisy, inauthenticity,
 - iii) Like the universal truth matter – there is not one way of being community

From Chapter 2: Missional Resources

- a) **The business of the church is mission**
- b) **Postmoderns (everybody) want meaning and purpose**, want to make a difference, put their energy into something that matters, take action, be needed.
- c) **If the institutional church is not making a difference in the world – then they have no need of it.**

From Chapter 3: Grieving, Believing, Perceiving

The church's three critical tasks (are these three critical tasks a structure for our discernment?):

1. **Grieving** - the loss of the Modern Church; what was – name the losses, grieve the losses (CCWM is still not done with this, and in some respects we may never be)
2. **Believing** – determine what we believe, the non-negotiables - in order to establish a relationship to postmodernity
3. **Perceiving** – “those who have eyes to see”, through the grief knowing there is “joy in the morning”, hope – the visionaries (shamans) must discern the movement of the Holy Spirit and speak the vision, and the rest of us need to listen to those with prophetic imagination.

Book Reviews:

<http://tableucc.com/amen-corner-reflections-from-the-pastor/the-next-revolution/>

<https://forthesomedaybook.wordpress.com/2016/01/13/book-review-beyond-resistance/>