

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Leonard W. Pine

In the May 1998 issue of the *Northwest Christian Journal*, the front page story (“Should the Church Prepare for Change?”) addresses the growing belief within the contemporary church that in a postmodern era postmodern methods are needed to reach the lost. While correctly seeing the basic tenets of Postmodernism (“a pluralistic, globalized world of moral relativism,” and “an absence of moral absolutes and an absence of moral truth,” p. 2), the article praises the efforts of a small but growing group of evangelical leaders to “dominate church life, replacing the church of the ‘modern’ era: (p. 1).

The emphasis of these Christian postmoderns is not “be in the world but not of it.” They insist that for the Church to reach the world it is necessary to be a relational part of it. Gone, therefore, is propositional preaching; it is replaced by narrative. Positive actions such as church oversight and intimate relations with one another in the body are corrupted by a willingness to carry on these relationships apart from purity. For example, Seattle pastor Mark Driscoll “recalled a young pastor in Texas who felt called to reach the extreme, so he preaches the gospel during intermission at a topless bar. Locally, PCA pastor Tommy Allen of Grace Church on Capitol Hill [Seattle] shows a commitment to his community by going on double dates with gay couples to foster relationships” (p. 2). This movement doesn’t like programs, because they are constrictive, and they don’t like labels that pigeonhole practices of a church into a “good or bad” perspective. Many of these postmodern churches let the congregations direct the worship, instead of the pastors and elders. The sheep call the shots! Instead of answering a moral vacuum with moral substance, the postmodern Christian (a contradiction in terms) prefers to answer the vacuum with a greater vacuum so as not to offend sinful men and women. The words of Christ in John 15:19 are essentially refused: “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

This issue of the WRS Journal seeks to address the problem Postmodernism presents to society and the Church. We believe that the need of a vacuum is to be filled, and we believe the Scriptures reveal the only Source of true filling—our God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Scriptures also reveal the appointed methodology. While it is true that the Church is to be all things to all men, it is equally true that our boasting is not to be in the cleverness of our methods of “domination,” but rather “the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshy wisdom but by the grace of God” (2 Corinthians 1:12).

We welcome several new contributors in this issue. Please be sure to let us know your thoughts on these matters. It is our sincere desire that this issue will help you discern and confront the inroads of Postmodernism in the Church. Search the Scriptures, try the spirits, and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He leads you into all truth, especially those things that concern Christ.