

**PREACHING IN THE MIDST OF CULTURAL CHANGE:
TEACHING STUDENTS TO CONNECT
WITH POSTMODERNS**

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Global society is in a period of great transition caused by the epistemological and cultural upheaval known as postmodernism. This tectonic activity of cultural change makes it necessary for today's Pentecostal ministers and missionaries to develop new paradigms for preaching that will connect with postmodern individuals.

The purpose of this project was to engage in biblical-theological research, review the contemporary literature, collect empirical data, and conduct homiletical experiments to determine the most effective approaches to preaching in a postmodern culture. The academic and empirical research became the basis for *Issues in Contemporary Preaching*, a homiletics course for Central Bible College.

The goal of the course was to assist students in developing the skills to: (1) summarize the biblical mandate, message, and methods of preaching; (2) trace a brief history of the significant culture shifts; (3) contrast the basic beliefs of premodernism, modernism, and postmodernism; (4) detail the problems facing preachers seeking to communicate to postmodern audiences; (5) describe and critique various methods proposed for preaching to postmoderns; (6) prepare and deliver a collaborative, problem-solving sermon that applies biblical truth to a contemporary issue; and (7) prepare and deliver an inductive, narrative sermon that evangelistically calls a postmodern audience to repentance and a restored intimacy with God based on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The findings of the project demonstrated an increase in student awareness of the challenges of preaching to postmoderns and student mastery of the basic skills required for preparing and delivering problem-solving and narrative sermons.