Like…Whatever! (Session 3)

Stronghold: **Postmodernism**

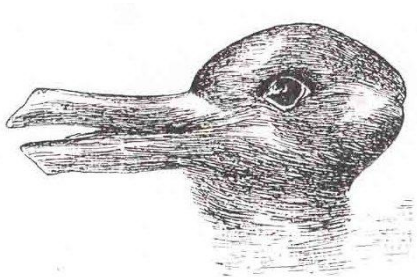
Teacher:

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that there is such a thing as truth that is true for everybody?

2. Do you believe that anything is truly permanent? What?

Definition of Postmodernism



Postmodernism describes a broad range of developments in society stemming from the perceived failure of modernism. It has proven highly influential in literature, history, psychology, education, theology, and a host of other disciplines. Postmodernism essentially teaches that truth is relative.

History of Postmodernism-

- Classical / Medieval (Pre-modern) period – Man can know in part because of divine disclosure
- Modern Period (Renascence / Enlightenment) – Man is the measure of all things
- Postmodern Period – What works for the community is true

Major Principles of Postmodernism-

1. Socialism - Truth is that which works for the most people (Utilitarianism) even if it restricts the freedom of the individual.

2. Pessimism – We are in Plato's cave and can never come to knowledge of the truth. We are bound by culture, language,

experience, etc. We have no idea what it means to walk in another man's shoes

3. Cultural Relativism – Ever culture sets its own moral standards.

4. Subjectivism – Truth is determined by taste.

5. Anti-realism – Extreme position: there is NO truth.

Examples of Postmodern Thinking-

- In education – No right and wrong answers

- In law – Living constitution over historical constitution.

- In art – Performance art, temporary (Christo and his drapes) – not to be seen but experienced.

- In religion – The emerging church movement. Continual dialogue over dogma.

Responses to Postmodernism

1. Postmodernism denies that correspondence theory of truth, which is based on common sense.

2. Relativism is self-defeating. ("The only truth is that there is no truth" is a statement that if it is true then it is false).

3. Postmodernism offers a terribly inconsistent ethic. On the one hand it states that there are no moral norms, on the other hand, it calls for the moral norm of tolerance.