

Strange New World

Romantic Roots

Learning Objectives

- Understand the historical, philosophical, and technological factors driving identity politics today.
- Gain a Biblical Perspective on Personhood
- Learn how to engage the culture which is often hostile to Christian beliefs

Why Is This Seminar Important?

- **1 Chronicles 12:32, Christians should understand the times**
- **1 John 4:1, with wisdom test every worldview and**
- **Romans 12:2. avoid conformity to the world's thinking**

Scripture References: Week 2

- Psalm 51:5
- Mark 7:21
- Proverbs 2:6
- Proverbs 3:7
- Genesis 3:11-12

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How did we end up as a society granting so much authority
to a person's inner feelings?

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- **Rene Descartes**, French Philosopher (1596-1650)
- Sought to find a basis for certain knowledge
- He placed human thought at the center of his project
- He posited a distinction between mind and body giving importance to the mind – potentially setting the two at opposition with one another.

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- Jean-Jaques Rousseau (1712-1788)
- We are inherently good but are corrupted by the nature of society.
- We need to look inward and use our feelings guide us to be truly authentic and fulfilled.
- Being authentic to ones self is more important than conforming to societal norms or religious teachings

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- Jean-Jaques Rousseau (1712-1788)
- What someone believes (feels) they are is more important than what they actually are (Transgender vs created in God's image).
- Rousseau did not specifically attack God or religion (because of the time in which he lived), but he planted the seeds to doubt God and for others to outright reject him in the future

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- Romanticism (1798-1848)
- Romanticism sought to find authentic humanity in an acknowledgement of and connection to the power of nature.
- (Rousseau could be considered the father of this movement).

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- Romanticism (1798-1848)

And what if all of animated nature
Be but organic Harps diversely framed,
That tremble into thought, as o'er them sweeps
Plastic and vast, one intellectual breeze,
At once the Soul of each, and God of all?

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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- Romanticism (1798-1848)
- Nature should inform man's emotions and instincts.
- Nature is powerful and being sensitive to the voice of nature is necessary if one is to be a truly authentic human being.

Strange New World: Next Week

“Ch 3, Prometheus Unbound” Pages 51 – 70.

Karl Marx and Frederick Nietzsche - the rejection of God and the rise of moral relativism.