



# Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns

*D.A. Carson (Editor)*

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**Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns** D.A. Carson (Editor)

This thoughtful cultural analysis probes important turning-points of biblical theology, describes successful contemporary evangelism, and exposes readers to the strategy and practice of Christian thinkers who are reaching the postmodern world.

## Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns Details

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Author : D.A. Carson (Editor)

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# From Reader Review Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns for online ebook

## Justin Daniel says

I think the title of this book is very misleading. What I was expecting was a book full of philosophical arguments on how weak the Postmodern position is. What I got was a book full of useful hints and tips on how to evangelize.

Postmodernism is a philosophical concept that stems from the community: morality is based on the ideals of a community. Further, the dominant thought is that the only absolute is that which there are no absolutes. This has proven to be a monumental task in Evangelicalism in America because how do you convince someone who has no truth except what they believe is truth to believe in absolutes?

D.A. Carson hosted a conference on evangelizing postmoderns in the late 1990's and the outcome of that conference became this book. Each chapter is a different speaker whose thoughts were transcribed and put into a book form. So you have a really wide degree of opinion and thoughts on this subject. Many of the speakers are with college campus ministries because postmodern ideals run rampant here.

What was disappointing about the book was it eventually just became a "how to" guide for evangelism. I suppose I could have figured that it would given the title, but the glimmer of hope I had for real substance was not to be. The main concept that kept coming up was one of community. Since the community is the force in which morality is disseminated in the postmodern thought process, much emphasis is placed on bringing people into Christian communities for evangelism. A lot of the advice is similar: get college youths plugged in at a campus ministry in a type of community. This opens the dialogue process up and helps young Christians gain a community that will ultimately lead them into a positive direction. Much is weighted on the idea that you can't full out tell people you're a Christian anymore, or even try to point out their sin; rather you have to form a relationship with an open dialogue that people will come to you for questions. There is some merit to this I think. But on the other hand, this point is so well documented in this book I thought I was re-reading things over and over again.

What is also frustrating is that this was written in the late 1990's. The authors reference cultural phenomenons such as the movie "Titanic" and other late 90's cultural references. I don't mind that as much, but the problem is that it is so archaic, I wonder if some of these strategies are so outdated that they will no longer work. Take for example the sexual revolution: 20 years ago, not a lot of people were talking about gay and transgender rights. Today, that is a topic of heated discussion, and particularly for the Church who, for the most part, will push against claims that those things are morally acceptable. Of course, this book does not address those topics. Which makes me wonder if we have entered into a new age in regards to the dominant philosophical thought of the day.

This isn't a bad book. I just think the view of evangelism taken here is too constructed: it makes evangelism out to be a system that works for our modern culture. Like if you do A), B), and C), you'll enter into a dialogue with someone about God and get them thinking. I'm not sure there is a "system" like "lifestyle evangelism" or "the way of the master" that is necessary. 1 Peter tells us to have an answer for the reason of our hope; that means certainly we need to study and know our culture, but it doesn't insinuate that 1) we need to perfect a certain system in order to be successful in evangelism or 2) that this particular system will work better than what we've been doing. And I think that's my biggest problem with evangelistic "systems".

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**Randy Poor says**

A good and in depth look into how to biblically respond to postmoderns which still, 10 years later, is applicable to the life of a gospel concerned person

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**Dottie Parish says**

Telling the Truth, edited by D.A. Carson, gives excellent insight into communicating Christian truth in today's culture with chapters by a variety of prominent evangelical leaders.

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**Jeremy Lee says**

The beginning of the book was excellent. In the second half, I lost interest because it deals with practical issues for college ministry. Since I'm not involved in this type of ministry, I skipped some chapters. No doubt this section would be very helpful for those involved in college ministry.

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**Luis Alexandre Ribeiro Branco says**

If this is not the best Christian book on postmodernism, it definitely is among the best ones.

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**Mike says****Thought Provoking**

This book is a compilation of essays regarding the task of sharing the gospel in a postmodern era. Many contain great insight and wisdom for Christians who desire to engage a new generation rather than hold onto old systems. It is refreshing to hear some leading conservative minds thinking very progressively. On the other hand, some essays sounded like infomercials for their materials. Otherwise, I would have given it 5 stars.

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**Jeff Noble says**

Telling the Truth by General Editor D. A. Carson (?)

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## **Adam Wilson says**

A book of chapters based on a conference on evangelizing postmoderns. Most chapters are very good, some are less than memorable.

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## **Bob says**

Telling the Truth is a great book on evangelism. It is must reading for any Christian wanting to reach the New Age Movement & post modern movement of our day. This book explains in detail the understanding of the Post-Modern Mindset for the times we now live in & does so without getting bogged down. If you read or attempted to read "The Gagging of God" by DA Carson you will greatly appreciate "Telling the Truth". The various authors explain our postmodern culture, and how Christianity fits into this worldview. More specifically the authors answer the challenge of applying a Christian worldview into a culture that has lost its foundations and is sliding down the slippery and illogical slope of moral relativism. Also the way the book is laid out one can take their time & work through each chapter giving careful thought to what each author brings to the table.

This book really is a must read on the subject of apologetics and postmodern culture, and is done in a way (as in Gagging of God) which doesn't require the effort and concentration level of most other postmodern discussions.

This book will be most helpful to preachers who want to ensure that they are addressing the spiritual needs of their parishioners & are effectively communicating the Word of God in a relevant & beneficial way to those who listen to us.

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## **Stinger says**

Didn't read the whole thing, primarily the articles by Ravi and Carson as well as a few others. Excellent info on evangelism.

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## **Lawrence says**

Great resource on the subject of proclaiming the Gospel in Postmodernity. Some of the lectures I had to highlight entirely. You can't understate the importance of understanding the postmodern thinking process, the perception and influence of it.

Looking at reading Carson's 'The God Who Is There' soon.

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