

## **The Age of Fragmentation – Episode 8**

### **Review: The Philosophers and Theologians**

**Rousseau** – Father of Existentialism

**Paul Gauguin** – Tahiti - painter

**Marquis de Sade** – nature is God – total freedom – advocated cruelty against women

- No basis for morals or values
- No basis for moral distinctives
- No value system

**Immanuel Kant**

**Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel,**

**Soren Kierkegaard**

**Jean-Paul Sartre**

**Karl Jasper**

**Aldous Huxley.**

### **Psychedelic Music and Eastern Religions**

**Schaeffer** – part of the blame lies within the church’s failure to be “salt” and “light”.

- The church was being compromised by higher criticism
- The church was grandfathered in and had cultural Christianity
- Low ownership of the faith
- Mainline protestant churches were theologically weak
- The gospel had to be amended so it would be accepted by the world
- Religious liberalism rejected the supernatural – Albert Schweitzer – no historic Jesus without the supernatural.

**Karl Barth**

- Bible is flawed and has mistakes
- Bible can not be trusted to regarding science and history
- Bible is not a source of absolutes for right and wrong

**Theology with no answer for evil** – Satan, demons, hell, redemption, salvation, all missing

**Paul Tillich** – no certainty of God – only a Word

- Word of God dead
- Content about God dead
- Assurance of a personal God dead

## **We began with the early church where:**

- Man was made in God's image
- God had spoken in Jesus
- God had spoken in His word
- God had revealed himself
- God had made the universe
- God was person, knowable and relational
- God had given moral and ethical absolutes
- Right and wrong were universal

## **Middle Ages**

### **Renaissance**

### **Reformation**

### **The Enlightenment**

### **The Scientific Age**

### **Age of Non-Reason**

As we moved away from God at the center and put man at the center the answers for our meaning, purpose, and the ability to know right from wrong crumbled from optimism to pessimism to despair.

This shift of influence spread:

- Geographically – Europe, England, America
- Culturally – philosophy, art, music, literature, drama, films
- Socially – intellectual elites to mainstream masses

## **Art**

**Impressionists** – Monet, Renoir, Pissarro, Degas – reality became blurred and a dream

**Post-Impressionists** – Van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat – begin to see a fragmentation man/nature

**Abstract Art** – Picasso – greater fragmentation of the human image and nature, landscape.

- Personal pictures of lovers and children were not fragmented

Complete break with the Renaissance art – fully human and fully natural world painted

**Marcel Duchamp** – Nude Descending Staircase – humanity completely disappeared, and all is absurdity and without meaning.

- Art became increasing disjointed from reality and more reflected the worldview of the day.
- What the philosophers formulated intellectually about; the painters painted.

**Jackson Pollock** – Art as random chance – paint cans dripping paint on canvass – but not the real universe in which we live. The airplane can not fly by chance, it is designed to fly in the universe as it is. The universe has order and laws of nature that can not be ignored.

## **Music**

**Beethoven's** last Quartet – perpetual variation with resolution

**Schoenberg** – perpetual variation with no resolution

**John Cage** – universe is mere change – music by chance – sheer noise, no order, confusion

Is this really art? – NO, it is a philosophical, intellectual statement, separated from reality

## **Literature (poems, novels, plays, cinema)**

**T.S. Elliot** – The Waste Land

**Cinema** – pushed what was in art and philosophy into the masses – huge impact

**Blow Up** – tag line “Murder without guilt, love without meaning”.

- No moral values
- No humanity
- No hero
- No distinction between right, wrong, objective reality and illusion, truth, or fantasy

The movie ends with a scene of a clown playing tennis without a tennis ball, then a zoom in shot on a man who disappears, the man is gone, and the implication is humans are merely machines without any values or morals or reason to exist.

### **Conclusion:**

On the Christian base it is possible to know why music, art, literature, and movies can speak to man in meaningful ways. Man is not a product of chance in a random universe but made in God image and has discovered his purpose through the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. The bible is the revelation of God working in time and history to bring about our salvation and reconciliation to Himself.

When this fundamental truth is removed a disoriented fragmentation results and that is observed in philosophy, art, music, literature and sadly enough, in theology.