

There are many metaphors and images that have been used to compare the traditional, modern and postmodern periods.¹ These are summarized below:

TABLE 3
COMPARING THE TRADITIONAL, MODERN AND POSTMODERN

Area	Traditional	Modern	Postmodern
IN SOCIETY			
Authority from	Above	Within	Everywhere
Position	By Birth	By Education	By Relational
Planning by	Precedent	Propositions	Unpredictability
Change initiated from	Above	The Center	From the Periphery
Change brings	Disaster	Progress	Cynicism
Work	Physical	Rational	Psychological
Work Group	Family	Committees	Teams
Family	Extended	Nuclear	Broken
Seating	Sofa	Bucket Seats	Circles
WITH THE SENSES			
Art	Flat/One Dimensional	Three Dimensional	Multi Dimensional
Sight	Eyes	Microscope	Kaleidoscope
Time	Sun	Clock	Internal
Communication	Literal	Verbal	Visual
Television	One Channel	Channel Viewing	Channel Hopping
IN THE CHURCH			
Trinity	The Father	The Son	The Holy Spirit
Church Orientation	Christendom	Modern	Pre-Christian
Church/Society	Maximized	Contextualized	Minimalized
Baptism	At Birth	Before Eighteen	After Eighteen
Church Growth	Biological	Transfer	Conversion
Commitment	Ritual	Nominal	Disciple
Pastoral Care	Monasticism	Professionalism	Missionary

¹ This chart has been developed from the following places: (Gibbs 2000:25; Koontz 1989:404-406; Campbell 1996, Harvey 1989:43; Sweet 1991:29; Hassan 1985:123-124, Jencks 1992:34; Easum 2000:39-138).