

Module 4 Key Ideas and Objectives

Key Ideas

1. Absolute values do exist, and reflect the character of God.
2. Philosophies have influenced and changed the course of world history.
3. The last 200 years represent an irreversible globalization of world systems.
4. God expects us to use “means” to accomplish the Great Commission.
5. New forms of sodalic structures (to replace monastic) were needed before the Protestants become a force in world evangelization.
6. Renewal movements both help indigenize the gospel in a culture, and help bring about cultural transformation.
7. Understanding the other culture is crucial to being able to communicate God’s truth across a cultural barrier.
8. Critical contextualization enables the gospel to make sense to, take root in, and transform a people.
9. One must be familiar with one’s own culture when transmitting the supra-cultural message of the gospel to another culture.
10. Secular ideologies, with evolutionary views of history, have caused the greatest loss of human life at the hands of other humans in all of history.
11. If there is not a rational, conscious intelligence behind the universe, reason and meaning cease to exist.
12. Poverty has ideological and spiritual roots; it is not caused merely by external or economic conditions.
13. Sustainable development occurs when root-causes are addressed and not merely the symptoms.
14. Social Justice is the responsibility of individuals and groups within society- not the government.
15. God wants every believer to live with vital, strategic significance in God’s global purpose.

Content Objectives

By the end of Module 4, you should be able to:

1. Identify key thinkers in the intellectual and scientific revolutions from 1800 to present and the various views of progress and history, including nihilism, existentialism, Marxism, modernism and post-modernism.
2. Describe the process by which the Western world has changed its orientation toward reality and the implication for this globally, in the realms of ethics, and for the church.
3. Describe the developments and characteristics of Islam, Animism, the New Age, Buddhism, and Hinduism from 1800 to present, and the key issues facing missions in relation to these religions.
4. Evaluate key events in America as it took shape to become the United States known today.
5. Analyze the dominant waves of reform, revolution, and reaction in 19th century Europe.

6. Explain the factors in Europe that resulted in World War I and II, the political and economic problems following the Wars, the spread of fascist and communist movements in the world, and the demise of communism thereafter.
7. Describe the reactions of the church to sociocultural events and forces such as the Enlightenment, communism, and the Holocaust.
8. Analyze renewal and revival movements of this time period, their relations to social reform, missions, contextualization of the Gospel, unity in the global church and the end of slavery in the West.
9. Describe slavery in its various forms historically, and analyze the Christian roots of the rise and success of the anti-slavery movement.
10. Trace the Zionist movement, the significance of the covenant to the Jewish people, Jewish Christian relations and the peace process.
11. Analyze the emergence of political independence which swept across the Third World as one aspect of a larger current of social ferment and political, economic, and ideological change that marked the quarter century following World War II.
12. Describe the history and context of worldwide mission work from 1800 to the present, including the three eras of Protestant missions.
13. Recount the recent history and current state of evangelicalism, its strengths and weaknesses as a sociocultural movement and its degree of accommodation to secularism.
14. Distinguish the origin and key features of the emergence of Protestant denominations, the holiness movement, dispensationalism, fundamentalism and pentecostalism.
15. Describe the impact of various worldviews on personal ethics, group ethics and social issues, including abortion, views on the family, euthanasia, bioethics, and genocide.
16. Examine the history and development of mission structures and movements, including the role of key figures and the unique problems of mission structures in the North and South.
17. Describe the effects of liberal ecumenism and liberation theology on the global church, especially the churches of the global South.
18. Analyze the new religious movements and attraction to Eastern religions popularized in the West in the 1960s to 1980s.
19. Analyze the impact of the secular, animistic and theistic worldviews on poverty and transformational development.
20. Examine implications of development and missions in Third World cities in light of the critical political, economic, and cultural issues involved in such work.
21. Compare the beliefs and results of free market capitalism with statist socialism, understanding how wealth is produced and various models of economic and social justice, including distributive justice vs. procedural justice.

22. Describe the importance of anthropology (worldview, arts and ritual, social structures, economic systems, cognitive systems, kinship, identification, biculturalism, and language) in today's global world and in missions.
23. Explain the importance of culture, genuine conversion, language and Bible translation, critical contextualization, and theology rooted in culture in the work of a missionary.
24. Examine the remaining global task and the place of prayer, global partnerships and our individual roles in completing the task.
25. Describe the origin and uniqueness of people group thinking, and the physical and "developmental" complexity in the new focus on Unreached Peoples.