**Postmodern Characteristics in Philosophy**

Absolute truth is an illusion

Fact is a moving target

Rejection of scientific methods

Embrace collective ownership

Disillusioned with modernism

Morality is personal

Globalization rather than nationalism

Validity of all religions

Liberal ethics that embrace feminists and other marginalized

groups

Pro-environment

Adoption of pessimism

Pursuit of spiritualism

**Postmodern philosophers**

**Jacques Derrida** – “there is nothing outside the text” because all experience is already an interpretation (Smith, 2006). Derrida calls language a ‘prison’ of interpretation (Thiessen, 2011).

**Jean-Francois Lyotard** – postmodernism is “incredulity towards metanarratives” (Thiessen, 2011). Metanarratives are stories within stories.

**Michel Foucault** – believes society reflects a prison. He states, “modernity’s claims to scientific objectivity or moral truth are fruits of a poisoned tree of power relations” (Smith, 2006, p. 87).

**Comparison to Modernist thought**

Knowledge is certain

Unbiased observation

Common sense-based

Fragmentation

Alienation

**Ministerial Responses**

Serve a changing student population

Maintain an educational community with reasonable standards

Develop within students a biblical world and life view

Teach students to value service (McKinney, 2003)

References

Characteristics of postmodernism. (n.d.). *All About Philosophy*. Retrieved on April 25, 2016 at www.allaboutphilosophy.org/characteristics-of-postmodernism-faq.html

McKinney, L. J. (2003). Postmodernism: Ministry implications for church and educational leaders. *Evangelical Review of Theology, 27*(2), 147-154.

Smith, J.K.A. (2006). *Who’s afraid of postmodernism? Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to church*. *The church and postmodern culture.* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

Thiessen, E.J. (2011). Who’s afraid of postmodernism? Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to church. *Evangelical Quarterly, 83*(4), 347-351.