

Postmodernism



Paradigm Shift: Adventism in a Postmodern World

GYC-SE Convention
SAU 2011

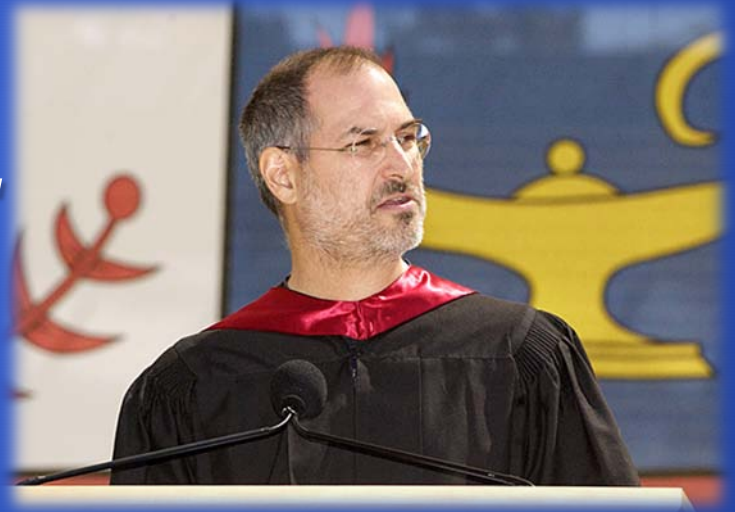
The iRevolution

2012 iBoard

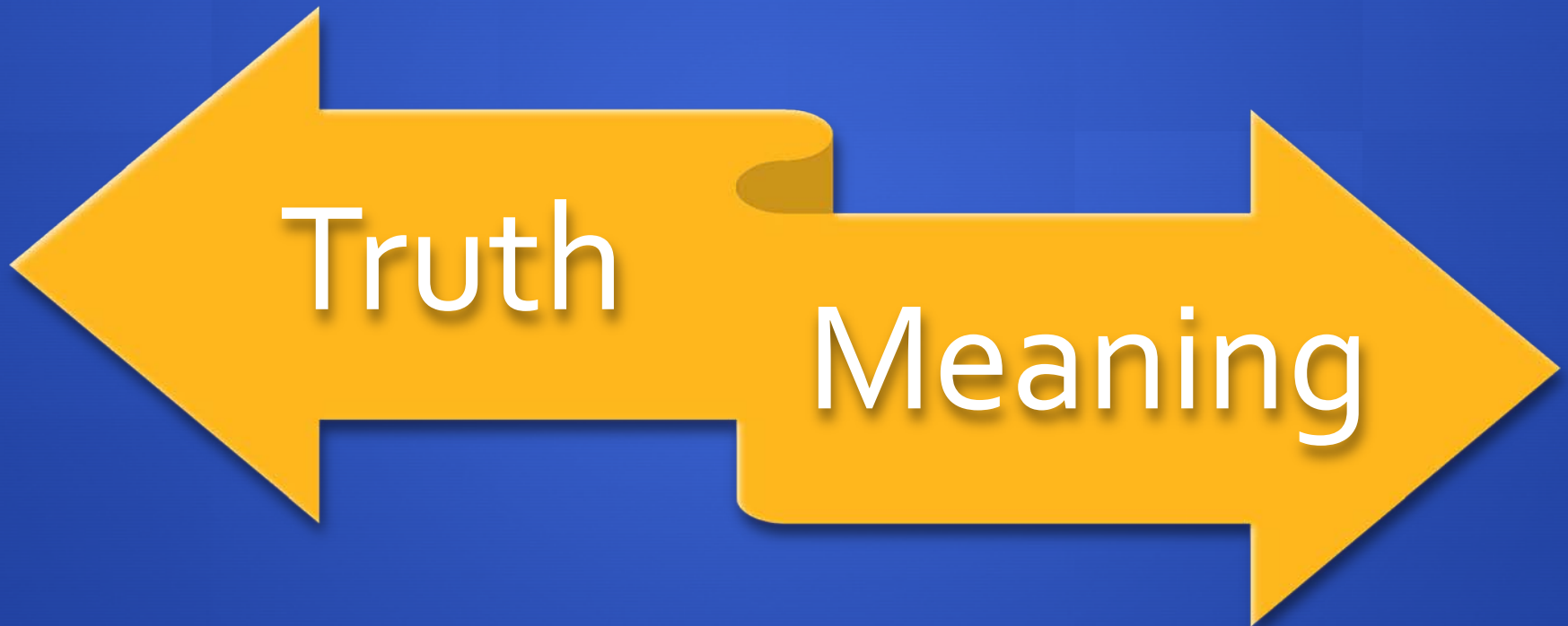


Steve Job's Philosophy

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."



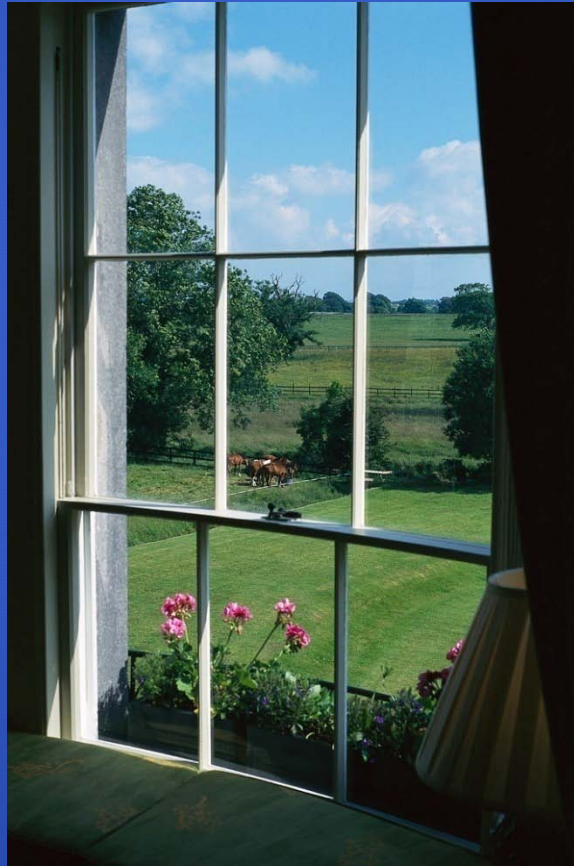
Understanding the Changing World



Understanding the Changing World



Your Window on the World



Paradigms

A set way of looking at the world



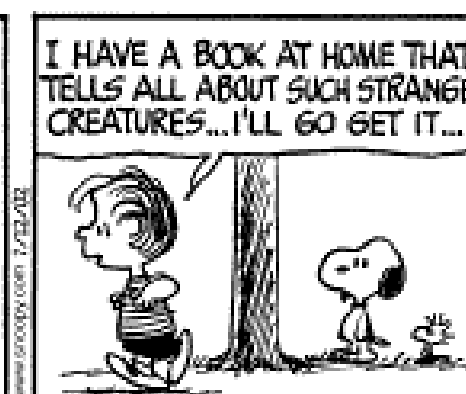
Paradigm Shifts

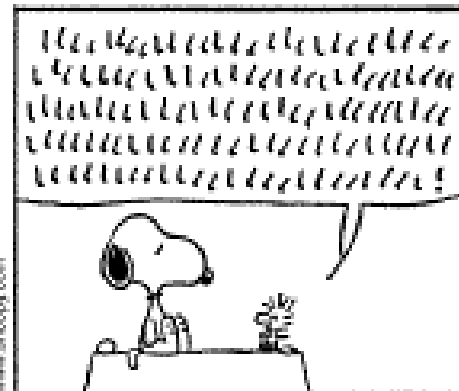
Revolutions in the way we see the world



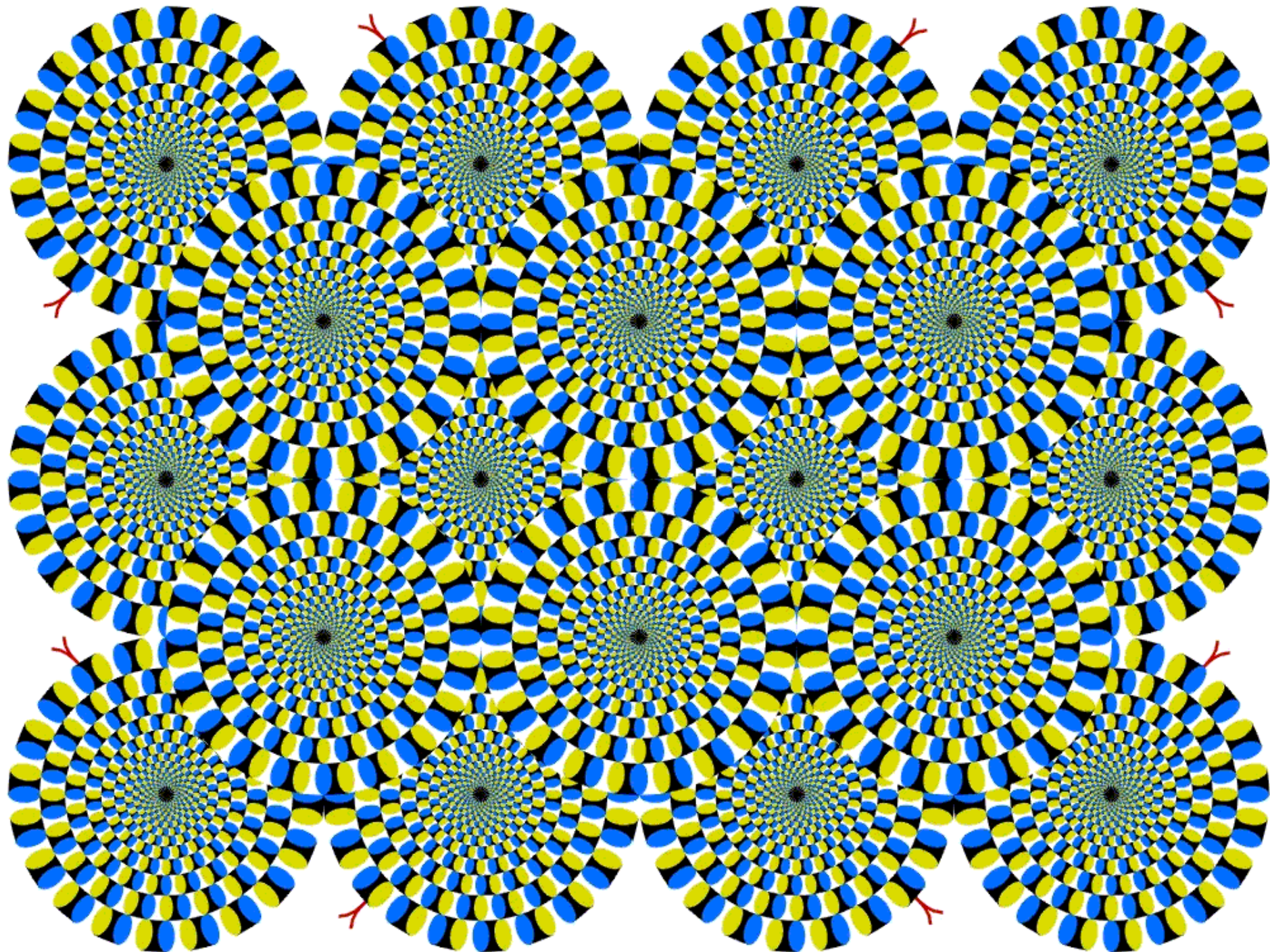




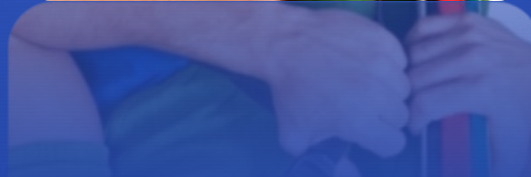








An emerging paradigm



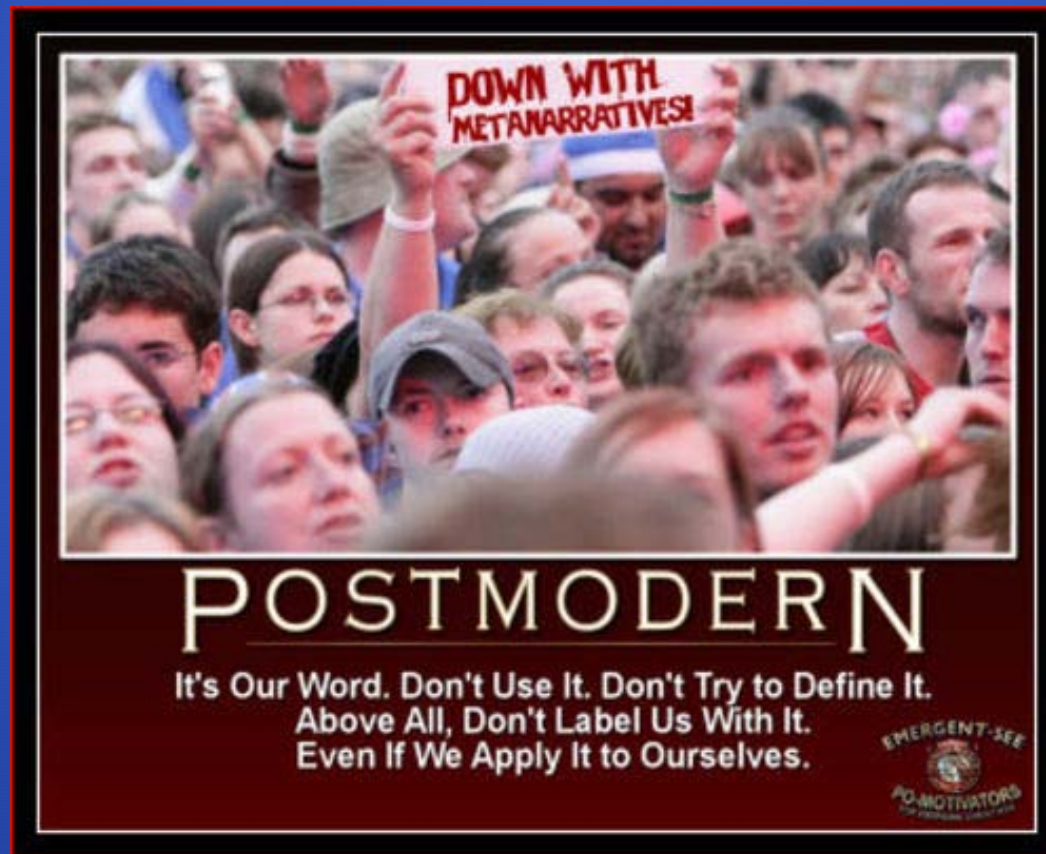
Pre-modern



Modern



Postmodern



The Postmodern Shift

Pre-Modern

- Agrarian
- Family
- Religion
- Authority

Modern

- Industrial
- Institution
- Science
- Truth

Postmodern

- Information
- Individual
- Media
- Meaning



A Change of Perspective



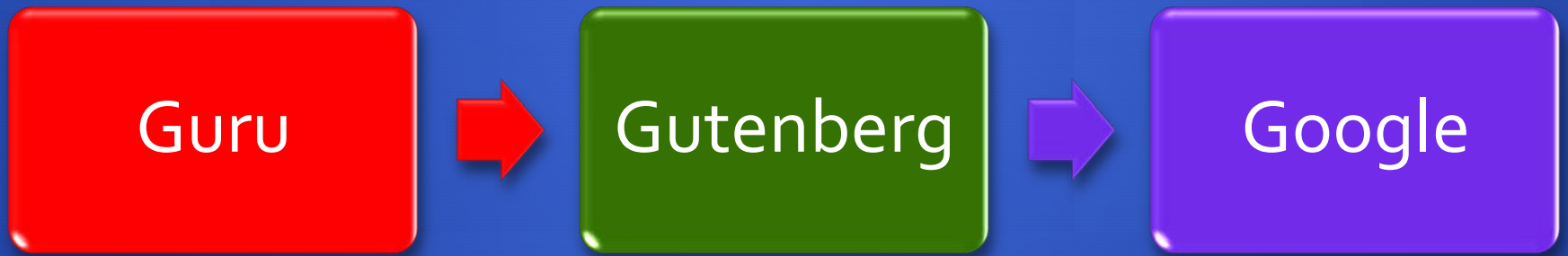
A Change in Perspective



What is a postmodern?

- A person who rejects “truth” claims and certainty.
- They are inherently distrustful and skeptical
- They focus on their personal feelings and desires and what brings meaning to them
- They reject metanarratives in favor of local communities and stories

The Media Revolutions



What's to embrace?

- The redefinition of truth
- The rediscovery of humility
- The recognition of mystery
- The renewed need for community

What's to reject

- An “I’ll do it my way” approach – ethical pluralism
- A loss of metanarrative (God’s Story) and purpose
- A new age spirituality without doctrine or truth



The Challenge of Our Message

- I believe that one reason postmodern people stay away (or drop out) from our churches is that our churches, locked in modern paradigms, tend to shrink or distort God to fit in familiar modern categories. Many postmodern people are open to God, and many are fervently seeking for God, but like a hungry person coming to a restaurant, when they come to us they find that everything we cook is heavily seasoned with modern seasonings that taste horrible to them, so they stay away." Brian McClaren, *More Ready Than You Realize*

What should Adventism do?

- Option 1: Join the bandwagon
- Option 2: Ignore what is happening and keep doing what we've always done
- Option 3: See the new paradigm as a time of dangerous opportunity

Understanding postmoderns

- Postmoderns want to **belong** before they **believe**
- Postmoderns value **authenticity** over superficial **formalism**
- Postmoderns **experience** their faith as a means to engage in **theology**
- Postmoderns find **meaning** as the way to discover **truth**

The dangerous opportunity

