

Emergent church: Wikipedia

Postmodern worldview

The emerging church movement arose as a response to the perceived influence of [modernism](#) in Western Christianity. Just as sociologists noted a cultural shift to [postmodern](#) ways of perceiving reality in the late 20th century some Christians also began to advocate changes within the church to respond to these same perceived cultural shifts. These Christians saw the contemporary church as being culturally bound to [modernism](#) and contoured their practices to reach a culture that no longer related to some of the common incarnations of Christianity. Emerging Christians began to challenge the 20th-Century church regarding its use of institutional structures, [systematic theology](#), use of propositional teaching methods, a perceived preoccupation with buildings, attractional understanding of mission (trying to bring people into the church rather than improving their world), professional [clergy](#), overemphasis on the facade of goodness and the perceived preoccupation of conservative Christians in the political process.

As a result, the emerging church believes it is necessary to [deconstruct](#) modern Christian dogma and avoid the use of jargon, called Christianese, that has become increasingly irrelevant to the prevailing culture. The emerging church accomplishes this by engaging in two-way conversations, or dialogues, rather than proclaim a predigested message and in this way leads people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit on their own terms. Many in the movement embrace the missiology that drives the movement in an effort to be like Christ and make disciples by being a good example. The emerging church movement contains a great diversity in beliefs and practices, although some have adopted a preoccupation with sacred rituals, good works, and political and social activism. Much of the Emerging Church movement have also adopted the approach to evangelism which stressed peer-to-peer dialog rather than dogmatic proclamation and proselytizing. ^{[citation needed](#)}

[\[edit\]](#) Postmodern hermeneutics

A plurality of Scriptural interpretations is acknowledged in the emerging church movement. Participants in the movement exhibit a particular concern for the effect of the modern *reader's* cultural context on the act of interpretation echoing the ideas of postmodern thinkers such as [Jacques Derrida](#) and [Stanley Fish](#).

[\[edit\]](#) Narrative theology

[Narrative explorations](#) of faith, Scripture, and history are emphasized in some emerging churches over exegetical and dogmatic approaches (such as that found in [systematic theology](#) and systematic exegesis), which are often viewed as [reductionist](#). Others embrace a multiplicity of approaches.

