



Postmodern Tribalism

My Tribe
My
Worldview

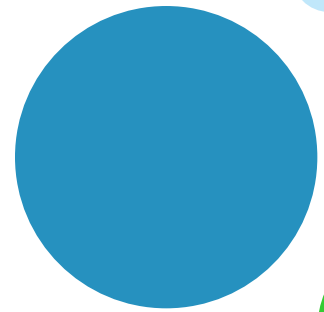
Change

- Words: “Words that describe some of the most fundamental facts about us are not simply brute facts. They have meaning for us, and they mean something, often something very different to others around us” (Wilkins and Sanford, 139).
- Consider: Globalization, Internet, Intercultural Relations and the Questions that arise.



Does This Sound Familiar?

- Multiculturalism
- Affirmative Action
- Postmodernism/
Postmodernity
- Liberation/
Feminism/Queer
Theology
- Cultural
Relativism
- Post-Imperialism
- Ageism
- Metanarrative
- Balkanization
- Identity Politics
- Deconstructionism



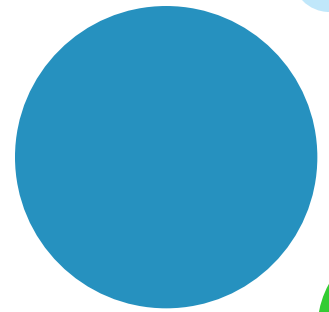
From Melting Pot to Multiculturalism to Postmodern Tribalism

- What brought challenges to the “Melting Pot” metaphor?



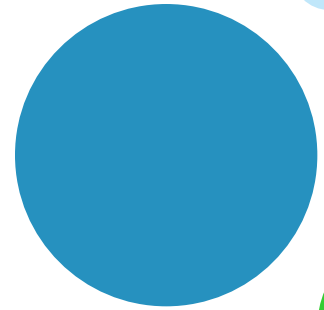
Postmodern Tribalism

- Post – something...
- Modernity
 - Rational thought
 - Empirical observation
 - Scientific method
- **Metanarrative:** grand deposit of truth which makes sense of our origins, explains what is right and good, and defines our purpose for existence (145).



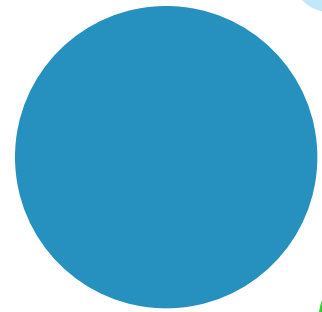
Postmodern Tribalism and Power

- Power of language
 - Words are used to hold people groups as slaves
- Confusion of Language: “Things that appear on the surface to be equal assume completely different meaning in different contexts” (147).



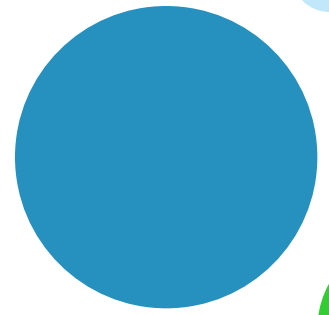
Positives of Postmodern Tribalism

- “Postmodern tribalism can help us develop empathy” (149).
- “Tribalism can help Christians recognize dependence on alien definitions of power” (150).
- “Tribalism can help Christians recognize the systemic aspect of sin” (151).
- “Culture provides a way of ordering life” (151).



Potential Problems with Postmodern Tribalism

- “Postmodern tribalism often assumes cultural determinism” (153).
- “Postmodern tribalism relativized ‘tribes’ while absolutizing ‘my tribe’” (154).
- “Postmodern tribalism degenerates into just another power play” (155).
- Postmodern tribalism creates a culture (and cult) of victimhood” (156).



Works Cited

- Wilkens, Steve and Mark Sanford. *Hidden Worldviews: Eight Cultural Stories that Shape Our Lives*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

