

# Postmodernism: Philosophical and Historical Roots 4

By Dallas Willard

[Transcription Note: Only Dr. Willard had a microphone so recorded audience discussion is sporadic.]

Dallas Willard:

...Everything is fine yeah [inaudible comment] And it's not.

Speaker 2:

And...don't give them that intellectual challenge because we have abilities in ourselves we feel guilty but really... if we're going to do that, we're getting rated on how well we are integrating and the kids really aren't rating us on how we're integrating, they're rating us on how spiritual we are... very very superficial...

Speaker 3:

Dallas he said... it wasn't the same place you said beyond...

Dallas Willard:

Christian schools are not.

Speaker 3:

We've got about five different threads going here at the same time and you don't disagree with Hunter's basic kind of warning both about what is going on-

Dallas Willard:

No I don't. I only disagree with what I saw as a causal claim.

Speaker 3:

Ok so it's very important to establish that you might even say if hunter... situation is worse than it was said...

Dallas Willard:

I think it actually is. I didn't want to say that in what I was saying but I do think it is worse in the sense that the real problem has to do with the primary integration in the individuals who make up the administration the staff the teachers of real powerful faith and spirituality with their work. And many times it is Virginia says because they have not resolved in themselves. What teaching mathematics has to do with being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Speaker 4 (Virginia):

And another thing is they were afraid to ask questions which get us branded as being different because we're so into our own subsystem...

Dallas Willard:

Well Jesus said Jesus said how can you believe. That receive honor one from another and seek not the honor that comes from God. So again and you see that's a fundamental spiritual issue for me. As a faculty member. Am I seeking the honor that comes from men or am I seeking the honor it comes from God only.

Speaker 5:

But Virginia is raising the issue that there would be heroic faith displayed if we had heroic Christians in the academic roles... there's pressure to do what's right isn't that what martyrs do what's right. We need martyrs today... you're saying there's so much pressure...

Speaker 6:

Well the issue is the environment such that any affect that martyrs do.

Speaker 3:

Well let me ask you this would it be more difficult for you do do what you think is true than it would be for Dallas to be a Christian at USC where he's ridiculed precisely because he's a Christian.

Speaker 4:

Well probably about the same but I'm talking about the whole environment and...

Dallas Willard:

I I don't know I guess I...

Speaker 7:

I've worked both places and I don't buy it. I've worked in secular universities for 15 years... This is not a hostile environment... [inaudible comment from Virginia]

Speaker 8:

Well listen to what he says Virginia I mean it's true I I work in one place I go to another I know what the faculty say about Dallas but yet they tremendously respect him personally but there is still the... he has to stay there and has to stand as a Christian. What he's saying is that

we've got Christian faculty that really would be great Christians at Biola but there is systemic pressure to-

Speaker 4:

You're misunderstanding what I said, what I said the environment we do not make a systematic attempt as faculty at Biola as a university we talk a good line but we don't do a good line and the reason we don't do that is because ultimately we don't want to do that... They become martyrs they become oddballs... push them out the door.

Speaker 9:

Can I take this in a slightly different direction. Dallas um you said that... so certainly it seems to me that the field of philosophy is really central to the past is right. I work in another. I know that. And very recently have. You decided. That it would be... the field of philosophy is really central to the past of the university and I think something has happened in our tradition, post-modernist fundamentalist controversy does not equip theologians... philosophy we think that it's the theologian who are supposed to bring the integration when in fact the way philosophy and integration has been taught... categories appropriate for this.. together... really rude to philosophers... and our goal was to guide each other last year... [inaudible] you're the person who came here, ties us together as a Christian... identified we need to focus on... in our field... philosophical questions... nature of consciousness, identify, everything... 80 percent of what you said today [inaudible] so it seems to me like maybe a question of if we're going to make progress

on this is how can we get philosophical or human or training to our faculty at large so they can see their own disciplines better by... strategy question and I don't know necessarily what... So we got to get it to the professor first.

Dallas Willard:

You know I mean the general answer has to do is simply leadership. And I think Sherwood and Clyde are as close to exercising that leadership as anyone I know. But it does. It has to come that way. It has to come through faculty being willing to sit and listen and talk and carry on. And many of them will never be convinced. And in part you have to do with the fact that many of our Christians are anti-intellectual anti philosophical they are passive. They believe that it's all by grace and so forth and so on. So you're never going to get past that gate from any of them. But the combination of the spiritual life and the intellectual life is the key. That will have to come by leaders who are prepared to lead. And. It will be a rough passage in many respects because as I say you will have people influential people in universities who say well what are we doing for. You know this is just a philosophical. We're here to preach the gospel to explain as best we can we depend upon the Holy Spirit to bring it home and so forth and so on. All the [inaudible] and all the time there will be running the the institutional structures and so on the problems of discrepancy between inside and outside and so on. But it's going to take sustained leadership if it says we're going to do this. Yeah. Isn't.

Speaker 9:

[inaudible]... Question is that... I'm really uncomfortable with the idea that Christian intellectuals are... Such an incredible variety of... [inaudible]

Dallas Willard:

I think it is. Know.

Speaker 9:

but... faculty I appreciate the... [inaudible]... I did find some student, particularly at Rosemead who were...

Dallas Willard:

Yes. Right. Right. And that's a part of strategy. That's a part of strategy. It's also the process of recognition of students of certain kinds and so on. And one of the reasons why at this date I can perhaps say this without making you feel uncomfortable but I was so thrilled and enthusiastic I was on the board at the time when Sherwood came up as a possible appointment was because he was coming from a context. That was not a religious hothouse. I knew that he understood what research meant I knew that he understood what it was like to get out there and do it. In the middle of whoever. And that's what we have to have. Now most of our religious colleges are afraid of that kind of person. They want someone that they have smelled out theologically that has proven themselves as administrators in some other school that is perhaps

even more close minded than they are. They want someone who's safe. And. That's a. Big deal. Big deal. But I think you're right. You take the ones that are ready to go and you go with them and the students also you may want to think up ways of recognizing students who show special ability to live as a disciple of Jesus at the front lines of a discipline.

Speaker 4:

[inaudible]... is ongoing and that's really the... work thorough the course material with student... who you are in this class how you interact with the material how you behave in the class that's the real world... how you interact with yourself and how you deal with the social...

Dallas Willard:

Well we're over time. Thank you very much friends. [applause] There's a lot of specialist-

[End]