

Study Guide Questions: (Megan Footit and Ted Hildebrandt)  
D.A. Carson “The Challenge from Pluralism to the Preaching of the Gospel”

How does Carson define empirical pluralism?

2. What does Carson mean when he uses terms like modernity, postmodernity, deconstruction, pragmatism, individualism, and the gospel?
3. What is cherished pluralism? How does it relate to empirical pluralism and what does it include?
4. What are the implications of philosophical and hermeneutical pluralism?
5. When Carson says many today hold philosophical pluralism that holds diversity or pluralism as an absolute creed, how does that impact one’s Christianity?
6. What is hermeneutics? What is deconstruction? Where is deconstructive method of interpretation’s focus on the author or on the reader? What difference does it make?
7. In deconstructive approaches how are religious values treated? What has been the impact of the Constitution’s “separation” clause in schools in terms of how modern schools handle and trivialize religion (vid. Christmas)?
8. What is the problem with making religion merely subjective and personal? How has this changed the way we look at transcendent truth? Why does that matter?
9. What does Carson mean by “correlatives of pluralism”?
10. How has “tolerance” and “pluralism/diversity” challenged the exclusiveness of Christianity? What’s the difference?
11. What is secularization and what is its impact? When have you seen this?
12. What is the impact of biblical illiteracy? How have you experienced this? Does it matter?
13. What is new age theosophy and what is its impact (2 main implications)? What is pantheism and how does it differ from Christianity? How does karma differ from divine providence?
14. What does Carson mean by the “cosmic Christ” and what are some implications of this phenomenon?
15. What is the role of the “baby busters” and how does Carson describe them?
16. What is the impact of the hegemony of pop culture on Christianity? What does hegemony mean?
17. What are examples of some single issues that drive believers? What is the impact of this phenomenon and how does it differ from presenting the gospel? How does modern culture see sin? Does that matter in the presentation of the gospel?
18. How would you summarize this article in two to three sentences, making sure you include the most foundational and important points?