

# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print, <sup>Isa 51:1</sup>

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## **The Culture We Live In, III.**

Postmodernism: An Extraordinarily Difficult challenge.

Roy Anker [Professor of English at Calvin College] ... thinks this “indirection” [of modern science fiction movies such as *Contact*, a 1997 adaptation of Carl Sagan's 1985 novel of the same name] is a great help to the Christian cause. Like the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, these films help people indirectly to appreciate the sheer goodness and love of God.

**I am not nearly so sanguine.** Tolkien and Lewis still lived in a world shaped by the Judeo-Christian heritage. [Lewis and Tolkien, resp., (1898-1963) and (1892-1973)] Their “indirection” was read by others in the culture who had been shaped by that heritage, even though many of their readers were not Christians in any biblical sense. ...

**Postmodernism.** ... Because of remarkable shifts in the West's epistemology [knowledge], more and more people believe that **the only heresy left is the view that there is such a thing as heresy.** They hold that all religions are fundamentally the same and that, therefore, it is not only rude but profoundly ignorant and old-fashioned to try to win someone to your beliefs since implicitly that is announcing that theirs are inferior. [Carson here notes his book *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*. Zondervan 1996.] ...

In short, the most energetic cultural tide, postmodernism, powerfully reinforces the most sentimental, syncretistic, and often pluralistic **views of the love of God**, with no other authority base than the postmodern epistemology itself.

That makes

**the articulation of a biblical doctrine of God ...  
an extraordinarily difficult challenge.**

D. A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*,  
Crossway 2000. [That does not make it an old book] In the church library.