

What Would Francis Schaeffer Say Today?

Relevant engagement with unbelievers in the 21st century is hard. This workshop will examine and share the unique apologetic approach of the late Francis Schaeffer. Schaeffer lived and ministered the Gospel in Switzerland, among those with an existentialist worldview. And because Existentialism and Postmodernity overlap in their approach to life, Schaeffer's apologetic is all too relevant for our now Postmodern world. In this workshop, we will discuss how Schaeffer, the so-called "missionary to the European intellectual" would engage unbelievers in the 21st century.

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I. Why Schaeffer is important

A. Philosophical Context—The west in the 1960s-70s and in 2014

1. Existentialism

a. View of Truth

b. View of Reality

2. Postmodernity

a. View of Truth

b. View of Reality

II. How Schaeffer thought

A. Man is not a zero

B. Human being first

III. What Schaeffer might say—Pre-evangelism: no soft option

A. Point of common ground

1. Where does the conversation begin

2. The first move

B. Point of tension

1. Belief against reality

2. Love and compassion

Suggested Readings:

Francis Schaeffer. *The God Who Is There*

Francis Schaeffer, *Escape from Reason*

Francis Schaeffer. *How Should We Then Live?*

Byran Follis. *Truth with Love*

Douglas Groothuis. *Truth Decay*