

| | age of authority (middle ages) | age of reason (enlightenment) | age of authenticity (postmodernism) |
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| focus | farms, villages, everyone knows their role | family (extended then nuclear), immigration | the individual often against family/society |
| job | options are few <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow in parents' footsteps (mostly farming, some craftsmanship, etc.) join the clergy or the military | old options plus factory jobs (urbanization/industrial revolution) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> age of inventors, amateur scientists | "you can be anything you want to be" reality: retail, cashier, office clerk, food prep, nurses, waiters, customer service, janitors, freight/stock laborers, & secretaries |
| information | minimal access to information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> religious education through art, sacraments, preaching (especially mendicant orders) morality embedded in oral traditions expensive books, handwritten in Latin inherited trade knowledge | access to "institutional" information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> books mass produced after Gutenberg Printing Press (1440) and in the 16th c. focus on vernacular language (still lots of illustrations and art early on) need considerable money or investors to print and distribute | democratization of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> used books (Amazon started this way) ebooks both paid and free websites, blogs, archive.org, google books social media (curation of interests) education (youtube, librivox, paid courses) podcasts (esp. Restitutio and Trinities;) |
| religion | compulsory support of local Catholic Church sacraments, pilgrimages, relics, endowed masses, tithes as part of taxes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> everyone has their role in society, true saints cloistered away, praying & fasting born into the church (infant baptism) church determines right belief/practice | voluntary church attendance based on beliefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social pressure to conform outwardly to civil religious sensibilities <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne (set in 1649, written in 1850) <i>Gone with the Wind</i> by Margaret Mitchell (set in 1861, written in 1936) | spiritual but not religious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> anti "organized religion", anti institutions skeptical of spiritual authorities owing to sexual harassment, embezzlement prosperity gospel, hypocrisy religion is private, but society is pluralistic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "you do you," but don't tell me how to live |
| criticism | lifestyle critiques (anti-clericalism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> concubinage, illegitimate children jealousy over exemptions from putting out fires, night watches, paying taxes Simony, Babylonian captivity (popes in Avignon from 1309-1377) | philosophical critiques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> problem of evil, miracles are superstitious, biblical contradictions science loosed from church challenges biblical metanarrative with naturalism (big bang + Darwinian evolution) | moral critique <ul style="list-style-type: none"> won't worship a God who supports patriarchy, slavery, and genocide Christians/scriptures don't accept gay marriage, transgendered cross dressing established and run by old white men |
| response | institutional reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholics: Council of Trent 1545-1563; authority remains in the church, major moral reforms regarding concubinage, Simony, bishop as pastor not prince Protestants: authority in <i>sola scriptura</i>, also advocated clerical marriage, preaching in vernacular, one standard for all believers (no monks/nuns) | evidential apologetics (reasons for God/bible) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Reasonableness of Christianity</i> by John Locke (1695) <i>Natural Theology: or, Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity, Collected from the Appearances of Nature</i> by William Paley (1802) <i>Case for Christ</i> by Lee Strobel (1998) presuppositional apologetics (Van Till, 1967) | <i>Total Truth</i> (2008), <i>Love Thy Body</i> (2018) by Nancy Pearcey <i>Making Sense of God</i> by Tim Keller (2018) Approach <ol style="list-style-type: none"> identify longing in culture show how our society fails to meet this desire or solve this problem show how lived Christianity satisfies the longing, enabling a life of authenticity |