



***Nebraska District
of the LCMS
16th District Convention***

***June 4-6, 2009
Seward, Nebraska***

***“Full of Grace –
Seasoned with Salt”
Dealing with Difference in a
Post-Modern World***

***Jack Preus, President
Concordia University
Irvine, CA***



Colossians 4:5-6

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

***“Full of Grace –
Seasoned with Salt”
Understanding the Post-
Modern World***

***Friday, June 5, 2009
8:15 a.m.***



Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

Postmodernism: A new world-view

- ***Definition of postmodernism***
 - ***It's difficult to analyze current trends***
 - ***History will tell the true story of postmodernism***

Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

- ***Three kinds of postmodernism:***
 - ***Academic postmodernism***
 - ***The postmodernism of the anti-postmodernists***
 - ***Pop postmodernism***



Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

***A good working definition of
postmodernism:***

***Don't try to make sense of things.
Things just are.***





The postmodern world view

WHATEVER!!

Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The postmodern world view

1. There are no absolutes

- ***A world-view without a world-view***
- ***Things don't happen for a reason, they just happen***
- ***Life is like a...***



Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The postmodern world view

2. The Deconstruction of Truth (Antifoundationalism)

Postmodernism is an attack against the very idea of truth. Its purpose is to “deconstruct” society’s structures of understanding, its assumptions about the way things are and why they’re that way and what’s important and why.





Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The postmodern world view

3. Everything is a “text”

The world is a text, a set of data to which we must give meaning. Things have no meaning in themselves; they are given meaning when a “reader” encounters a “text.”

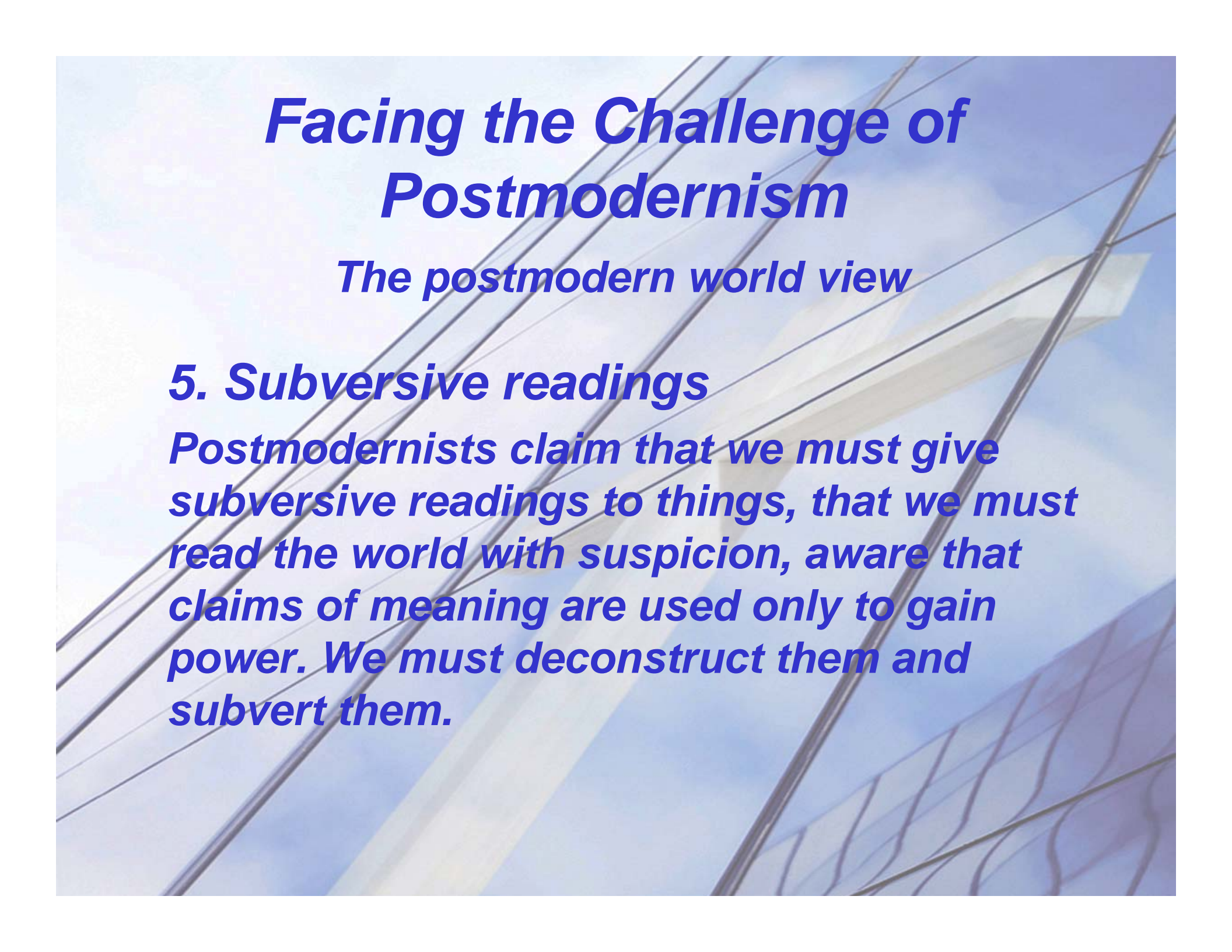
Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The postmodern world view

4. Meaning is a social construct

We make meaning of things in order to give order to our society, or to provide stability, or protection, or to maintain peace or to control people. Things don't actually have meaning in themselves; we give things meaning for our own social ends.





Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The postmodern world view

5. Subversive readings

Postmodernists claim that we must give subversive readings to things, that we must read the world with suspicion, aware that claims of meaning are used only to gain power. We must deconstruct them and subvert them.

Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The postmodern world view

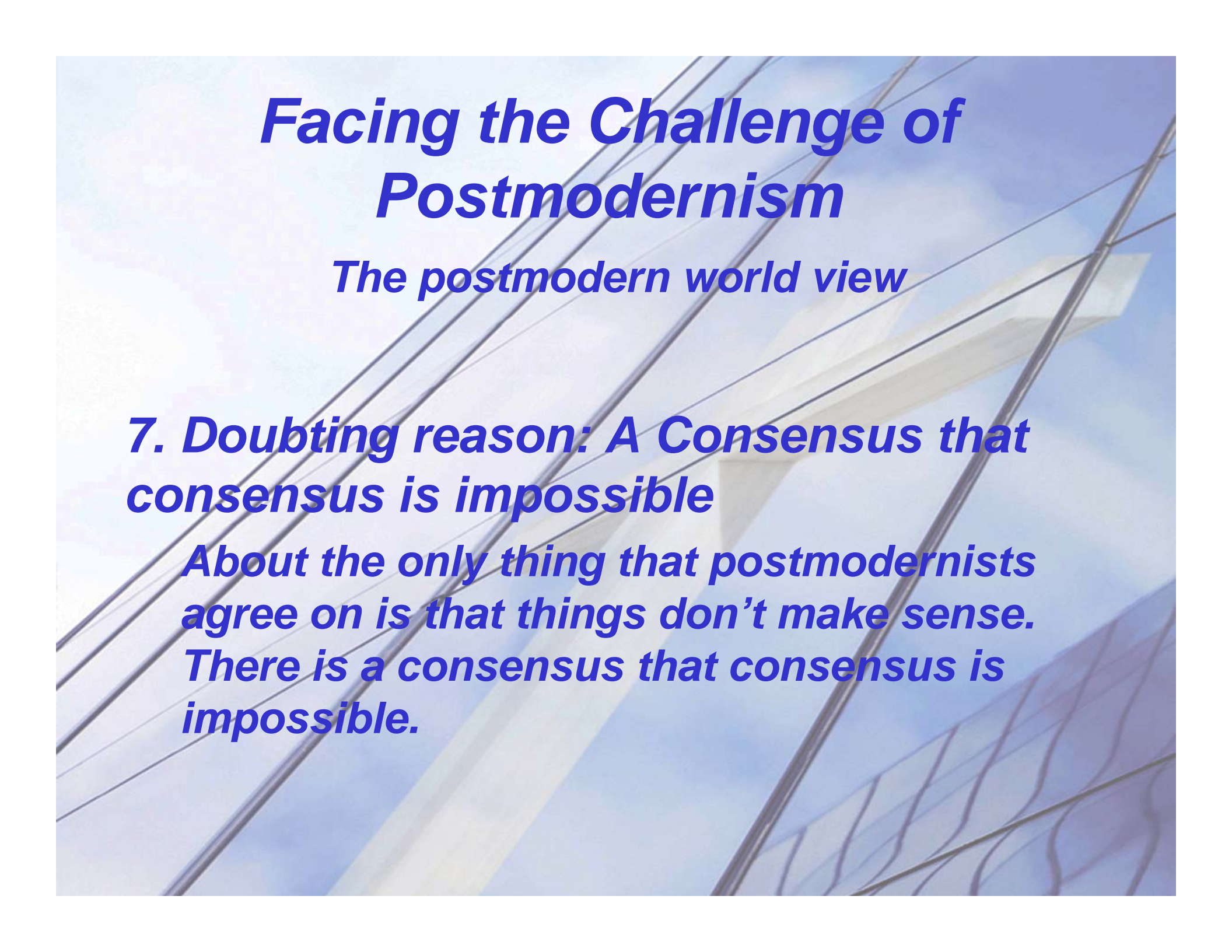
6. Doing without truth and meaning

So, in the end, postmodernists claim that we must learn to do without truth and meaning. There is no truth; nothing means anything. Life really is like a box of chocolates.









Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The postmodern world view

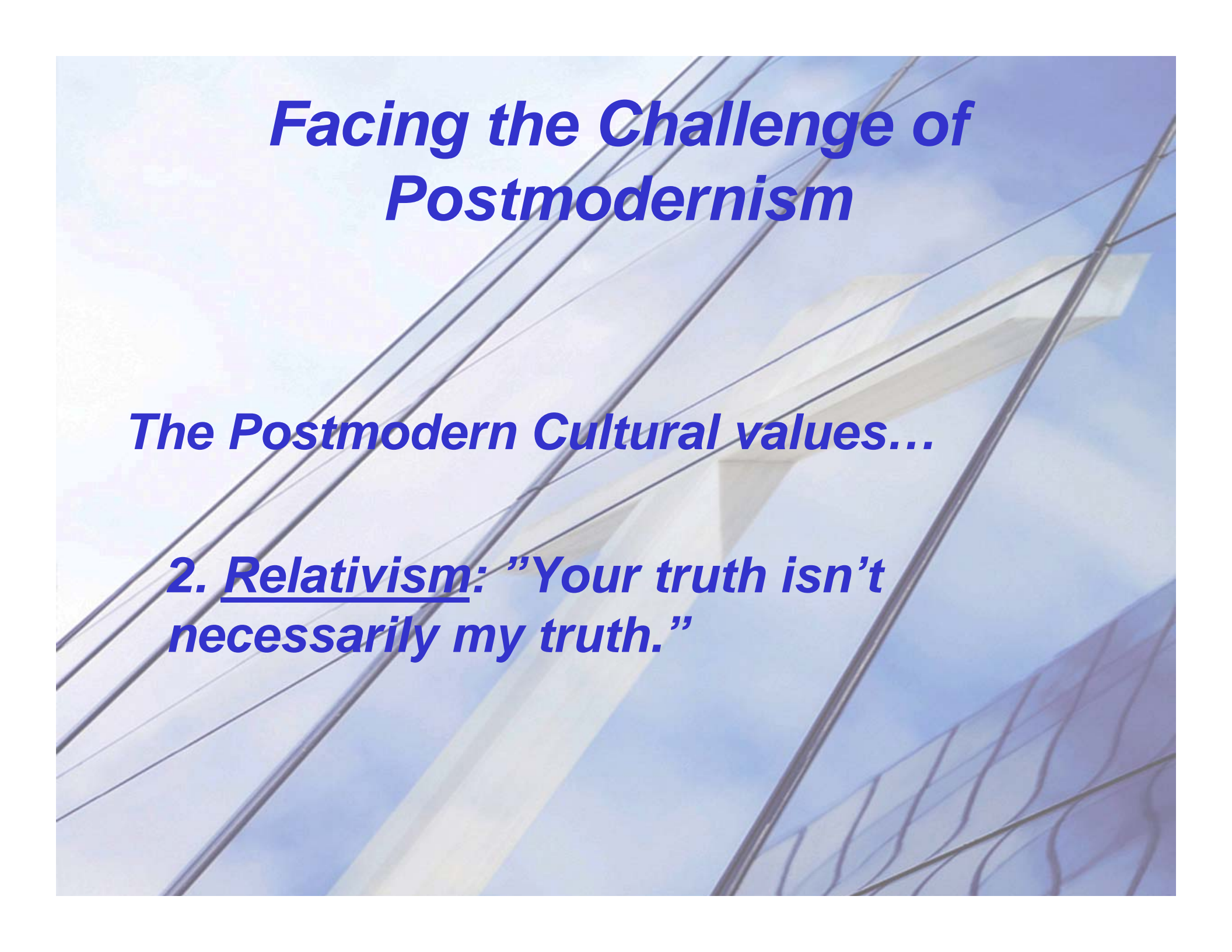
7. Doubting reason: A Consensus that consensus is impossible

***About the only thing that postmodernists
agree on is that things don't make sense.
There is a consensus that consensus is
impossible.***

Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The Postmodern Cultural values...

***1. Authenticity: Trust, integrity and
vulnerability.***



Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

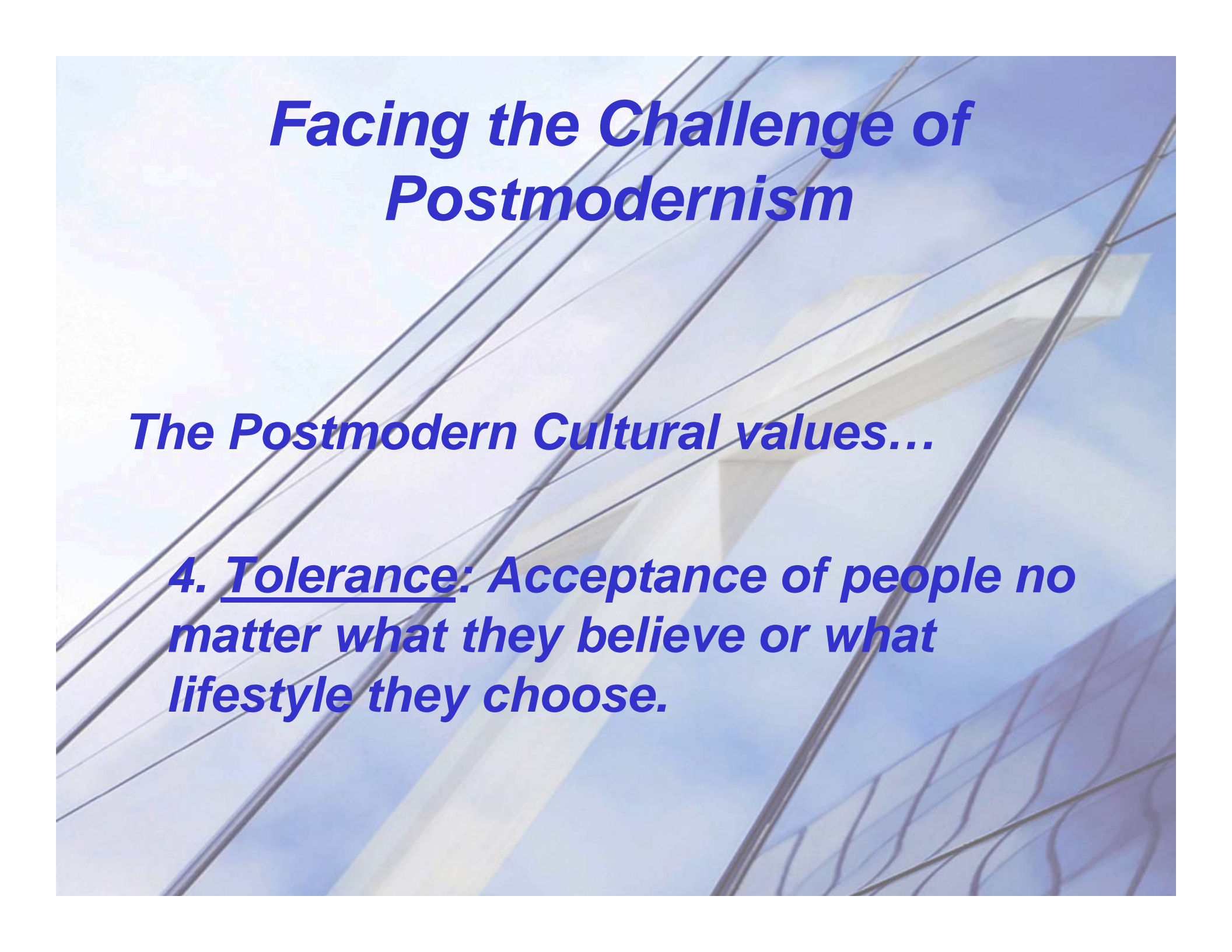
The Postmodern Cultural values...

***2. Relativism: "Your truth isn't
necessarily my truth."***

Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The Postmodern Cultural values...

***3. Preference: Making the most of
choices from a staggering array of
options.***



Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

The Postmodern Cultural values...

4. Tolerance: Acceptance of people no matter what they believe or what lifestyle they choose.

Facing the Challenge of Postmodernism

***“I am the Way and the TRUTH
and the Life.” John 14:6***

