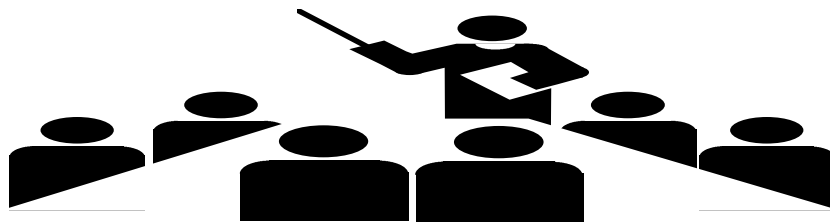


EVANGELISM WORKSHOP



Facilitator

The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.
Director, Bureau of Evangelism
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, North Carolina



Topic:
“Evangelism and Syncretism”

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Evangelism and Syncretism



KEY VERSES: Colossians 1:13-4:6



PROPOSITION: The secret of effective evangelism is the clear, accurate, and timely presentation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit from those whose lives have been transformed by their personal relationship with Him and His people.

DEFINITIONS:

Evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel. It is proclaiming Jesus Christ as God and Savior in order that persons may respond to Him in faith, experience the new birth, become His disciples and serve as responsible members of His Church."

*In the theological realm, **syncretism** is that process by which a relatively new religious movement embraces the beliefs and teachings of a variety of different groups and weaves their philosophies together into a totally new entity, which on the surface seems very attractive to the adherents of various groups.*

I. In order to evangelize effectively those who embrace a variety of religious teachings, we must clearly and accurately communicate to them the truth concerning who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for their salvation. (Colossians 1:13-29)

A. We must communicate the truth concerning who the Lord Jesus Christ is. (Col. 1:13-19)

1. He is God's beloved Son. (13)
2. He is the source of our redemption and forgiveness. (14)
3. He is the image of the invisible God. (15)
4. He is preeminent over all creation. (15-17)
 - a. All things were created by Him (both physical and spiritual)
 - b. All things were created through Him.
 - c. All things were created for Him.
 - d. He is before all things. (both in time and supremacy)
 - e. He holds all things together.
5. He is the supreme authority over the church. (18)
 - a. He is its beginning—its continuous source of new life.
 - b. He is the firstborn from the dead—His resurrection makes possible our resurrection from both spiritual and physical death.
 - c. He is preeminent in all things.
6. He embodies all the fullness of the Godhead. (19)

B. We must communicate the truth concerning what Christ has done for our salvation. (Col. 1:20-23)

1. Through Christ's shed blood all things on earth or in heaven can be reconciled. (20)
2. Through Christ's atoning death we, though sinners, can be reconciled to God. (21-23)
 - a. He can reconcile us even if we have been alienated from God by wicked works.
 - b. He can present us holy and blameless in God's sight if we continue in the faith.

- C. We must communicate the truth concerning how people can be saved. (Colossians 1:23-29)
 - 1. We must share the gospel of Jesus Christ with every creature under heaven. (23)
 - 2. We must often suffer that people may know the good news about Christ. (24-25)
 - 3. We must reveal the mystery that Christ living in us is the hope of glory. (26-27)
 - 4. We must preach Christ: warning and teaching everyone in all wisdom. (28)
 - 5. We must work and strive to present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus. (28-29)

II. In order to evangelize effectively those who embrace a variety of religious teachings, we must follow Paul's model approach for dealing with false teaching: sharing with them the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ rather than trying to win arguments. (Colossians 2:1-23)

- A. We must teach that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. (Col. 2:1-3)
- B. We must warn people not to be deceived by the persuasive words of false teachers. (Col. 2:4-7)
- C. We must caution people about the false reasoning and deceit of worldly philosophies. (Col. 2:8)
- D. We must show them that we are complete in Christ and He, being God, is all we need. (Col. 2:9,10)
- E. We must show them how to experience this completeness that only Christ can offer. (Col. 2:11-15)
 - 1. The circumcision of Christ is spiritual and involves our real cleansing from sin. (11)
 - 2. Baptism here is a symbol of our being raised from the death of sin to a life of holiness. (12)
 - 3. Through Christ's death and resurrection God made us alive spiritually. (13)
 - 4. Through Christ's death and resurrection God forgave all our trespasses. (13)
 - 5. Through Christ's death and resurrection God wiped out our condemnation. (14)
 - 6. Through Christ's death and resurrection God triumphed over Satan and his angels. (15)
- F. We must show them that we are not saved through legalistic rules but through Christ. (Col. 2:1-23)
 - 1. We must let no one judge us about food, drink, festivals, or a sabbath observance. (16)
 - 2. We must know that these are only a shadow but Christ is the substance [reality]. (17)
 - 3. We must not be led astray by false worship, but hold to Christ, the Head. (18-19)
 - 4. We must trust Christ and not follow human regulations and man-made doctrines. (20-22)
 - 5. We must know that such rules may make us look holy, but cannot make us spiritual. (23)

III. In order to evangelize effectively those who embrace a variety of religious teachings, we must exemplify the powerful witness of a life transformed by a dynamic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Colossians 3:1-4:6)

- A. We must demonstrate that we now have an eternal perspective and outlook on life. (Col. 3:1-4)
- B. We must demonstrate that we are putting off the old man with his deed. ((Col. 3:5-9)
- C. We must demonstrate that we are putting on the new man with its Christ-like traits. (Col. 3:10-14)
- D. We must demonstrate that we are letting Christ's peace rule our hearts. (Col. 3:15)
- E. We must demonstrate that we are letting Christ's word dwell in us richly. (Col. 3:16)
- F. We must demonstrate that we are doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Col. 3:17)
- G. We must demonstrate that we are being Christ-like at home and at work. (Col. 3:18-4:1)
- H. We must demonstrate that we are praying for the success of the gospel enterprise. (Col. 4:2-4)
- I. We must demonstrate that we are living in a manner that furthers gospel's appeal. (Col. 4:5-6)