

Evangelism and the Intellectual

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I. Introduction.

- A. A university is a place for disagreement - a place to present one's case.
- B. This is an age of revolt, fear, greed, deceit, confusion about sexuality and morality, addictions and emptiness.
- C. We live in an age of lost-ness - of philosophical uncertainty. It is said that life's only meaning is death.
- D. What is the answer to the human dilemma?

II. The Bible calls the human dilemma an old word - "sin."

- A. It says that the heart is deceitful above all else and that all have sinned.
- B. Man is born in sin and can only do harm to himself.
- C. There is something that is basically wrong down inside of us.
- D. Jesus said that our problem is within.
- E. Sin is a transgression of law (that of the Ten Commandments but also the law of conscience) or a missing of the mark.
- F. The result of sin is present hell and future judgment because we were made for God. Without God there is an emptiness.

III. The existence of the God of the Bible cannot be proven, but the Bible indicates that He has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ.

- A. God took our sins and laid them on Christ. (Isaiah 53, 1 Peter 52)
- B. It requires a simple act of faith to receive this.
- C. All truth is wrapped up in Jesus alone.
- D. Faith does not deny reason, but the final step demands faith.
- E. What Christ said about conversion was psychologically sound.
 - 1. In the speaker's conversion he found a new dimension of life entirely.
 - 2. Not all of his problems were solved, but he could approach his problems with a new power.

F. We have to come as little children to receive Jesus.

G. Our needs are the same universally - we need God.

IV. This sounds intolerant and narrow and it is.

A. We have to be narrow as we are narrow in chemistry, mathematics and flying planes.

B. Christ is unique and different as the Son of God who changes life.

V. The future kingdom - the kingdom of God.

A. God will write the last chapter of history.

B. There is a destiny for the human race.

C. Christians are a minority, but they can be a dedicated minority.

D. The hope for peace is a spiritual fire that will change the world.

E. Christ has given the speaker a security that he would not change for the world.

VI. Discussion.

A. We desperately need a spiritual shoulder to cry on because of our condition.

B. Instead of being tied to a right wing government, Christianity should be addressing the evils of government. (Ockinga)

C. A Christian is a person that is to live Christ under any form of government. He is to live Christ under any system so far as he can.

D. God's love for us is deeper for us than anything we know. When Christ comes into our hearts, this deep God love is shed abroad in a deeper way than we have known.

E. The movement today that has given impetus to social work around the world has been the Judeo-Christian religion.

1. There is good in all religion, but there is one point in which they stop.

2. Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection makes Christianity unique and distinctive in that it gives Christians the power to be ethical.

3. There is much evil in the church, but there is a church within the church that is still faithful.

F. The social justice that we believe in can come from personal commitment, but the primary thrust of the evangelist is individual like Wilberforce.

Application questions

1. What is the primary problem with humanity? How does it manifest itself?

2. How does Christianity provide a unique answer to this problem?

3. Why is it okay that Christianity make narrow claims about salvation? Explain.
