

Why Evangelism (2)

By Victor Beshir

In our Part I of “Why Evangelism” we discussed two of the reasons for evangelism. Here we continue to look at other reasons.

Third: Ethical reasons in the west

Surely, the [United States](#) of today is not the same one of fifty years ago. So many evils have invaded peoples’ lives. Any comparison of the crime rate or divorce rate will show the huge difference between the two eras. Some of the new thoughts and philosophies that greatly influence people nowadays were out of the questions 50 years ago, now they have become part of the daily life of many.

[Europe](#) is no longer a cradle for Christianity as it used to be. Just compare the number of people attending Sunday worship nowadays with this number sixty years ago; you will be shocked because of the very dramatic drop. Virgin Mary appeared in Portugal, Spain, France, and Germany in the first half of the Twentieth century. In these apparitions, she looked sad; she warned Europeans of their sins and called them to repentance, penance, fasting, confession, and partaking of the Holy Communion. Christianity in Europe is wounded and needs a lot of prayers and help. Europe lost its Christian roots and its people turned to atheism, devil worshipping, cults, Islam (in big numbers), Eastern religions, and modern agnosticism.

Michael Green, a famous author on evangelism, wrote in his book, ‘One To One, How to share your faith with friends’ about hundreds of missionaries who came to England from Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East to evangelize the British. He marveled at “These courageous Christian Missionary Workers, reversing the events of a century ago, when Victorian Christians went worldwide to teach the gospel, are coming to a godless country to help us bring our country back to the Living God.”¹ We always think of going to Africa, but the sad fact is that Europe needs more spiritual help than Africa. The real battle between God and the devil is in Europe and no wonder why

¹ Michael Green, *One To One, How to share your faith with a friend. Moorings, Nashville, Tennessee, USA 1995. ISBN: 0-345-40089-5, Page 2*

Virgin Mary appeared in Europe more than in any other continent, pleading to people to come back to Christ.

Now, having realized the sad reality in the Western countries, we need to find out the reasons behind this, so we may know the obstacles facing evangelism in these societies.

Atheism:

Atheism is rapidly spreading in Europe like wild fire. The industrial revolution and scientific discoveries resulted in wealth and prosperity. Instead of thanking God, some people in Europe started to think that they do not need God any more. They thought man could do everything through machines, and other discoveries such as electricity, telephone, and the rest. The worst influence came from such authors as Voltaire, Sartre, and other Non-Christian existentialist philosophers. The Evolution Theory, unfortunately, caused a big damage to Christianity, as Darwin later said, 'When I was young, I threw a theory, but it spread like a wild fire.' He never anticipated the widespread of his theory that later led to the denial of creationism. After all, he was a monk. Teaching the evolution theory in high schools and universities produced generations of atheists. If Voltaire shouted, 'Death to God,' the Evolution Theory declared 'God did not create humanity'.

Even the artists joined the battle against God and used the most powerful tools: movies, songs, games, and books to denounce and mock Christian faith and God. We never saw such mockery of Christianity since the third century. Atheism attracted young people first and soon became the norm.

If Prophet Jeremiah were here today, he would have bitterly wept for Europe. Sweden is an example of where atheism is widespread; the majority of the population is atheists. A Swedish friend of mine asked me to publish a web page that addresses atheism to help the Swedish people. I wrote the materials in English, but so far, I could not find a translator to translate them into Swedish. I will include some of the materials in some lessons.

Relativism:

Relativism eliminates ethical standards from the minds of many. Based on the principles of relativism, there is no Right or Wrong; but rather an individual analysis of each situation that depends on circumstances, personal opinion, and feelings. This has eventually led to the wipeout of the standards that used to guide people for thousands of years, give society the stability it needs to function properly, and transfer humanity from barbarianism to becoming well-civilized societies.

Those who call for, and support relativism ignore the foundations upon which personal life, family life, social life, and even political life are established. Every science must have a set of laws that govern it; otherwise, it is not a science. To handle mathematical problems, for example, I have to abide by the rules of addition, subtraction, etc. I cannot say that to me, one plus one equals four, while to another person, one plus one equals ten. Can you imagine the extent of confusion relativism would develop?

Not only with science, but also work, Can you imagine a company without rules, objectives, and procedures? Can you imagine a society without a law that spells out what is right and what is wrong and condemns wrong doings? Can you imagine what could happen if written contracts were eliminated from our life?

If we cannot eliminate the laws and rules that govern science, society, and commercial dealings, why can relativists eliminate ethical rules from life? Surprisingly though, when discussing certain issues with them, no matter how strongly they support their beliefs, they still come to a halt at a certain point. For example, if I find it Ok for me to kill, should I kill? Their answer is "No." Does not this then mean that there are rules, whether they admit it or not? Conclusion is that Relativism encourages non-ethical behavior and sin, suggests the elimination of moral values, and leads to the abolition of the eternal teachings of God. Nevertheless, no matter what relativists say, God will judge people based on His commandments.

Sexual Revolution:

The **Sexual Revolution** that started in the fiftieths of the Twentieths Century promotes the fulfillment of sensational desires and the immediate gratification of bodily lusts. It deprives sex from every human value and degrades it to a level that puts some animals' sexual

behaviors at a higher ethical standard than that practiced by some humans. It calls for sexual freedom outside wedlock, appropriates pre-marital sexual activities, and widely accepts single people living together without marriage or an ethical commitment.

Human sex was ordained to be an expression of love that teaches people how to give farther than receive, and to establish solid homes for husbands, wives, and their children, where love and sacrifice are manifested. Love is an important aspect of the human life, the absence of which, leads to many psychological problems.

We can sum the measurable results of the sexual revolution in certain findings. Number of broken homes today exceeds any statistics of past times in history. More than half of the children population in USA lives in single-parent homes, which is not the norm. Moreover, massive numbers of people live in a void, deprived from real love and true companionship.

The creator of human nature is the only being who fully understands man. Scientists work fervently and diligently on understanding the human body and deciphering its diseases, and behaviors, and they are far from reaching a thorough understanding. The Creator, however, who knows what is best, ordained marriage and condemned pre-marital sexual relationships. If we follow his directions, we will reach happiness and joy, and if we ignore them, we destroy our societies and ourselves.

The Gradual Disappearance of God in Everyday Life:

While the United States' forefathers built the country on spiritual Christian values, the new generations now try very hard to take God out of every place in our life. Some organizations fight with teeth and nail to replace God and the Bible with relativism and individual freedom. God disappeared from our Schools, then from our colleges, leading to confusion in the education system. The United States is a nation that spends billions of dollars on education, yet crime, drugs, and lack of achievement cripples our schools. News of growing crime rates in areas that used to be crime-free zones, such as elementary schools shock the population everyday. Ungodly organizations continue to take away all Christian symbols, feasts, and values under the claim of "tolerance." While accusing Christians of lack of tolerance, they themselves cannot tolerate prayers in a football game or the words 'Merry Christmas.'

If this trend continues, we will reach a society that is void of God. Here comes the rule of evangelism to show the importance of God in life, by changing one person's life at time.

Uncontrolled Freedom:

It is impossible to have absolute freedom. If man was left to do whatever he likes without a law or conscience, the results will be devastating. You have to have traffic laws otherwise, it would be impossible to drive. Similarly, many areas in life cannot move smoothly without putting limits to freedom, and creating a balance between society and individuals. The calls for unlimited freedom, especially for those who cannot apply any control into their life, created vary dangerous situations. For example, they created laws that limit parents' control over their children and gave children more freedom in a time in their life when they lack the required experience and knowledge and still need education and discipline. The uncontrolled freedom opens the door for a sharp increase in teen pregnancy. The unquestioned freedom given to Hollywood in movies, songs, and video production filled store shelves and homes with filthy materials that should not have been allowed if we were a nation that puts our children and moral standard first before business profit.

People think that full freedom will make them happy, the result, however, was not happiness but misery. The true freedom is the freedom given by Christ, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

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The results of the above reasons, and others, lead to a broken ethical system that affects our daily life in every aspect and widely reaches everywhere. We reached the point where we spent billions of dollars in prison system with no results. Family is in big trouble, consequently children pay a dear price, and when children grow up the government pays a heavy price. Look at these statistics, published in the Time magazine after the Colorado School Massacre in May 3, 1999, 300 % increase in teen suicide since 1960s, 1,000 increases in depression among children since 1950s. I think these statistics, although I need many pages to portrait the whole pictures, tell the whole story of the damage our society experienced because of the new elements that I mentioned.

Fourth: Living in Emptiness

Materialism, sexual freedom, and absence of ethical values and God from everyday life lead to emptiness in people's life. People lack the true love, care, support, ethical guidance, spiritual food, and closeness to lead a balanced life. Nevertheless, with selfishness, carelessness, immorality, and a life void of God's presence, people step into a way that leads to unhappiness, and restless life.

People try in vain to quench their internal thirst by immersing themselves in more sexual freedom, in acquiring more possessions and commodities, or spending more time watching entertainment. The story of the Samaritan woman depicts the consequences of immoral life. Listen to what the Lord said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again" (John 4: 13).

Sin has the seed of spiritual death in it. Remember the story of Adam and Eve. When they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree, they became aware that they are naked. The order of death started working in them and deprived them from every inner peace and joy they had before. The seed of death penetrated their bodies, souls, and spirit to degrade them.

Man has no rest away from God. We are created to have rest in him, as Saint Augustine explained. Therefore, although you see people laughing, striving to get joy out of every moment of their life, deep inside, there is death that fills their life with emptiness, keeping them dissatisfied, restless, and unfulfilled for the rest of their life.

Fifth: The danger of modern religions in the west. (Eastern Religions, cults, New Age, and Islam). I will talk about this point in other lessons.

Sixth: Modern Christian churches lost their connection with the historical church, resulting in churches void of spirituality. (I will explain this in the lesson: 'Where is the Church Established by Christ and His disciples').

Seventh: Deprivation of Christian-Living Blessings

I will not talk much about the deprivation of Christian-living resources, because it summarizes what we already live in as Christians, enjoying living in Christ: joy, inner-peace, grace, heavenly blessings, friendship with the saints, and the rest. We are eager to see people enjoy the blessings we have.

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When you look around, it seems as if the gates of Hell are widely open, sending demons to deceive humans using every possible way. This makes evangelism a must, as a loving effort to save as many as possible through the grace of God. God needs people who put their lives in His hands and let Him guide them to the lost sheep.

Although I explained in details the reasons for evangelism, yet keep in mind that Christ alone can save people. He has a plan for saving those who seek Him. You and I can devote our hearts, time, and if possible the whole life to Him. Then He will send each to the place He ordains. We do not move by our own will, but by His will. However, for Him to use us, we need to have this passion to evangelize and to spread His good news. We need to have a zeal and compassion. What you need to do is to prepare your heart and life for Him to use you.

Questions:

Please answer one of these two questions and e-mail the answer to me:

- 1- Give an example from the Bible for a person who saw the needs for evangelism and offered himself/herself to God to use him/her. Explain those needs, and the way God used the person to evangelize.
- 2- Christians evangelize because of their desire to preach the gospel to others, helping them find salvation, grace, peace and joy. Please find Bible verses that express this desire.