

Evangelism in a Skeptical World

Week 7

Contextualization for Evangelism (Chapter 5)

How To Interpret Culture

We need to learn to interpret our culture, the Bible's culture, and the culture of those we wish to evangelize. To do this we must learn how to study a culture. We can do this through several methods like:

- Asking four questions
 1. Who am I?
 2. Where am I?
 3. What's wrong?
 4. What is the solution?
- Investigating six themes of a culture
 1. Reality
 2. Human nature
 3. Death
 4. Knowing
 5. Values
 6. Purpose

One other method is understanding the storyline of a culture. What is their mission? Who are the bad guys in their story? Who are the good guys in their story?

Contextualization

Once we understand a culture we can connect the gospel with their culture, this is contextualization. We are to enter and challenge a culture with the gospel.

Our challenge has always been to allow converts to be Christian and still be their culture as seen in Acts 15. Should Greek converts follow Jewish traditions, circumcision, eating unclean things, etc... This is still an issue today when sharing the gospel. You need to talk like me, dress like me.

Remember we must challenge culture with the gospel but not challenge culture with our culture.

