

Why Is It that We Have Good Answers, but So Few Are Listening?

Today many evangelistic-minded evangelicals often find themselves somewhat discouraged by the diminishing returns on their evangelistic efforts. The typical evangelical strategy is to craft another “how to” seminars, engage in slick advertising, or employ the language of those who have the ear of culture. This talk, however, suggests other possibilities by examining how Christians relate to the thinking of the world and whether or not Christian answers are addressing contemporary questions in a way that presents the distinctiveness of Christian answers. This includes a brief discussion of why so often the non-believer thinks the Christian message has no value.

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Schaeffer: “Despite claims of cultural relevance, an accommodating evangelism also leaves the destructive surrounding culture increasingly unchallenged.” (*The Great Evangelical Disaster*, 370)

- I. The state of the world
 - a. Naturalism is the perception of reality
 - b. Implausibility of God
 - c. Freedom as the absolute: choices for the sake of choices

- II. The state of the church
 - a. The loss of community
 - b. Nature of the Christian message

c. Heart of Christ, mind of the world

Note: Studies reveal that young people claim they leave the church after attending university because of the conflict between faith and science, but that reveals a more serious and systemic problem, namely that they do not properly understand either.

Suggested Reading:

Francis A. Schaeffer. *How Should We Then Live?*

Francis A. Schaeffer. *Escape from Reason*

Thomas V. Morris. *Making Sense of it All*