

How Can We Preach Sin in Today's Culture?

To many cheery unbelievers, sin seems a particularly objectionable preoccupation of Christians. They seem fixated on it. How can we bring home to contemporary people their sin and need of a Saviour without using the old language? This workshop will address the issue in a way that is both biblical and contemporary.

Michael Green is a well-known evangelist in many parts of the world. He has been involved in leading missions in universities both in the UK and across Europe for the past five years. He is an Honorary Fellow of Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, where he was for some years a Senior Research Fellow and taught Evangelism, Apologetics, and New Testament Studies and also helped Professor Alister McGrath launch the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. A few years ago he helped to grow and lead a start-up Anglican Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was asked by Archbishop Bob Duncan to raise a small team and offer evangelism training in the emerging Anglican Province in North America. Michael's previous experiences include being Principal of St John's College, Nottingham; Rector of St Aldate's Church, Oxford; Professor of Evangelism at Regent College, Vancouver; and Advisor to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on Evangelism. He has written numerous books including *But Don't All Religions Lead to God*; *I believe in the Holy Spirit*; *Jesus for Skeptics*, which is being widely used in missions and has been translated into several languages, and *When God Breaks In*, a study of revivals in dark times, culminating most notably in modern China. Michael and his wife Rosemary live in Oxford, England.

I. Introduction

I want to encourage Christians to think more imaginatively about preaching human need. Guilt- pardon is not the only way to do it.

II. Why is it so difficult to preach sin?

III. What does the Bible mean by sin?

1. Sin is an illness.
2. Sin is moral guilt.

3. Sin is an enslaving force.
4. Sin is existential alienation.

IV. How can we proclaim this biblical understanding of sin today?

1. Alienation
2. Emptiness
3. Lack of meaning
4. The quest for spiritual fulfilment
5. Materialism

We need to keep one foot in the bible and the other in culture so as to see how this truth can be conveyed in ways to connect with everyday experience.