

EFFECTIVE GOSPEL COMMUNICATION IN A MULTICULTURAL
SOCIETY: A TASK FOR THE CONTEMPORARY MINISTERS

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ABSTRACT

The slow pace at which the gospel is communicated today compared to the time of the Apostles and the prophet of old is a major concern of any serious minded minister or missionary today. Without any iota of doubt, there were effective gospel communication in the days of the Apostles and prophets in the Old Testaments and this was explained in this work. It was discovered that there were tremendous and commendable evidences of effective gospel communication in the Bible which led to church growth in every area.

Considering the gospel communication in our own multicultural society, the contemporary minister has to follow some suggestions, so as to attain the effectiveness that was recorded in the biblical era. Part of the suggestion is that there should be renewed emphasis on mission and missions. Aggressive but not offensive gospel communication to all and sundry is needed more than ever before, the contemporary minister should be ready to face the challenges of false teachings due to secularism and mushroom churches all around us.

For effectiveness and aggressiveness in gospel communication to come to biblical standard, every prospect must be located as the Apostles did. Following the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, they should be visited, and cultivated, every culture should be bridged, every tribe should be taught, every prospects should be won and developed for resultant church growth and the expansion of God's kingdom in this our multi cultural society.

5.2 Conclusion

From the discussion made so far, it is important to note that:

The contemporary ministers/missionaries should always have it in mind to communicate the gospel message in a way that will bring result and also be pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has commissioned them to go. The ministers/missionaries should not forget this as they communicate the gospel across culture even in our multicultural society:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8 – KJV)

This implies that it is not by the power of the ministers/missionaries; it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that the gospel can be effectively communicated, so no fear should be entertained as to oppositions or troubles or what to say, for the Lord Himself will go before as they go across the lands and oceans.

It should be noted here again that the contemporary ministers should disabuse their mind from the idea of some ministers that the need for cross cultural gospel communication is not necessary, they argued that everyone should stay in their land or cultural background, amidst his own people and spread the gospel but we did not learn that of Christ.

In the light of this research work and the above scriptural passage (Acts 1:8); the contemporary ministers must know that for any mission work to fulfill the great commission, it has to be approached cross culturally. "... witness unto me ... unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Therefore, the contemporary ministers should work against all odds to communicate the gospel in our multicultural society; his song and motto should be "ready to go...", and carrying out the command of the master effectively.

5.3 Recommendations

Having considered what made for effective gospel communication in our multi-cultural society and highlighted some problems that may face the minister/missionaries and the effect of culture and culture changes on cross-cultural gospel communication, the researcher wishes to make the underlisted recommendations:

- ⇒ Biblical principle should be followed in communicating the gospel: Gospel communicator should strive to follow the biblical standard in all situations to communicate the gospel so as to achieve the desired result.
- ⇒ Understanding Language and Culture of the Prospectus: The contemporary ministers should seek to understand the language and the culture of the people to whom they are missionaries. Understanding their language and culture will make their work easy and effective and thereby results in growth of the people spiritually.
- ⇒ The Need for Sacrifice: The ministers in this contemporary world should be ready to deny self and place kingdom priority above self-ambitions. They must

speak and act like Paul wherein he said "I become all things for all people, that I may gain some ..." They must be ready to suffer for Christ sake.

- ⇒ Financial Support for Mission Work: It is recommended that churches and individuals should arise to the challenges of supporting mission works. The churches should know that it is her major responsibility to be alive to mission – thus fulfilling the mandate given by the Lord Jesus Christ. The churches and individual should know that there is nothing more rewarding than participating in mission works – taking the gospel to the unreached – expanding the Kingdom of God by showing people the way of salvation through effective gospel communication.
- ⇒ Training of Ministers/Missionaries: Also the researcher recommends that priority should be given to the training of ministers, because the effectiveness of the gospel communication depends largely on the efficiency and capability of the minister/missionary. A poorly trained missionary/minister will produce a poor or no result, he may have epileptic converts which will not bring any good to the church nor the Kingdom of God. So a sound theological and spiritual training should be giving to whosoever that will go and be His witness in any part of the globe. He should be trained also on how to relate socially so as to accommodate others. Proper training will widen the horizon of ministers/missionaries and thus makes him relevant and effective in his duty.
- ⇒ Boldness and Ability to Communicate: It is also recommended that whosoever that will communicate the gospel in this our multicultural society should exhibit boldness and readiness in communicating the gospel well. He doesn't need to be an orator, but he should speak convincingly with evidences from the scriptures.

- ⇒ Readiness to Defend the Gospel: The ministers/missionaries should be ready to stand and defend the gospel at all times. He should stand for the truth of the gospel whenever he is challenged by any situation or circumstances; he must uphold the name of Christ. He must be ready to face other beliefs that are anti-Christ in the society where he is.

- ⇒ Need for Dialogue: The ministers should be ready to dialogue with the people whenever he sees anything in the culture of the prospects that is unbiblical, he should try to talk things over with them so as to correct the wrongs of the society, he should not condemn anything because condemnation of those practices in a harsh way will close their mind to whatever minister has to say and it may take a long time before any success could be recorded soul winning wise.

- ⇒ Prayer: Every minister should know that prayer is a major tool for effective gospel communication. Prayer should be the first, second and last of minister/missionary activities. It is prayers that will strength the ministers as he discharges his duty. It is recommended that a prayer group/team be raised by every minister to lift up holy hands for effectiveness in gospel communication on the field.

- ⇒ More Research Work: The researcher admits that he has not exhaust the researchable area in this aspect of effective Gospel Communication in a Multicultural Society which remains a task for the contemporary ministers, therefore, remains open for more and deeper research on the subject.