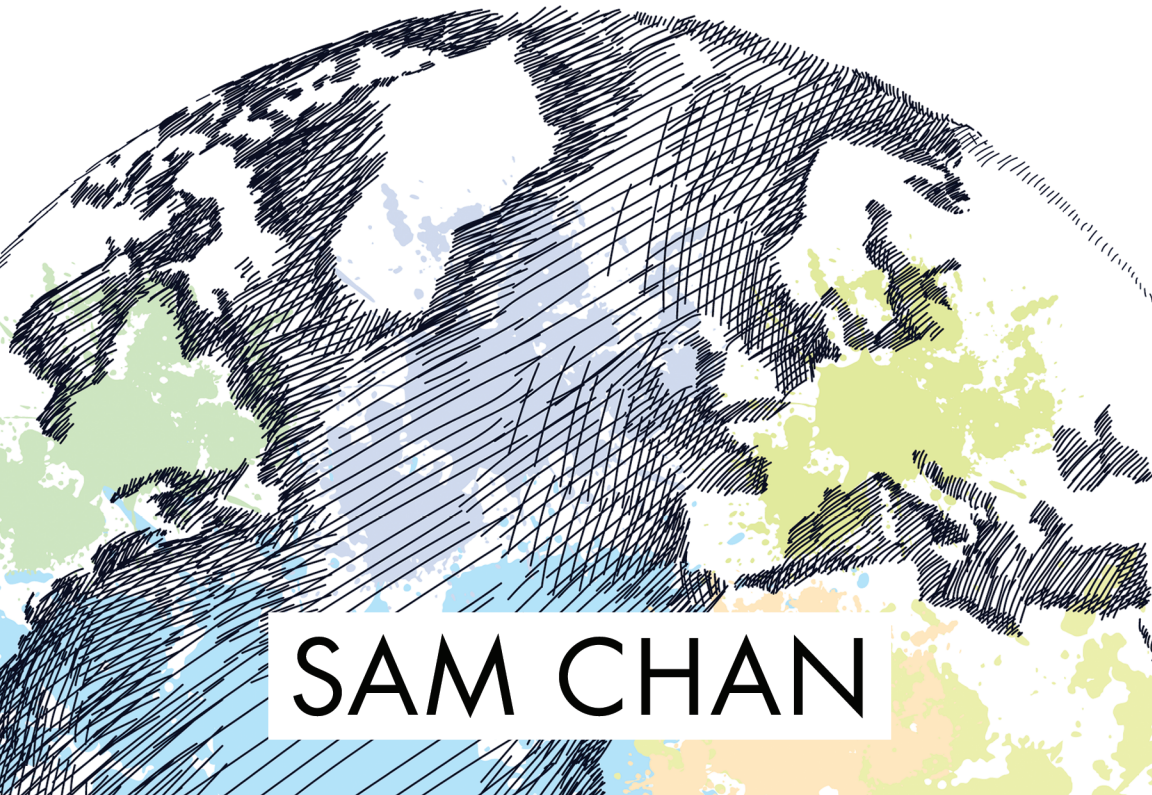


Foreword by D. A. CARSON

EVANGELISM in a SKEPTICAL WORLD

How to Make the Unbelievable News
about Jesus More Believable



SAM CHAN

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

CHAPTER 1

A THEOLOGY OF EVANGELISM



When Can We Call Someone a Christian?

For a summary of three different ways to approach this question, download the PDF from ZondervanAcademic.com.

To access this resource, register on the website as a student. Then sign in and download the resource from the “Study Resources” tab on the book page for *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*.

CHAPTER 2

EVERYDAY EVANGELISM



Exercise: Preparing Your Testimony

For more suggestions on sharing your testimony, including five examples of testimonies that utilize the storytelling approach, check out the free discussion guide available at [ZondervanAcademic.com](https://www.zondervanacademic.com).

To access this resource, register on the website as a student. Then sign in and download the resource from the "Study Resources" tab on the book page for *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*.

CHAPTER 3

HOW TO CRAFT A
GOSPEL PRESENTATION

God	Sin or Sinful State	Correct Response
Creator	Idolatry	Worship
King	Rebellion	Repentance and submission
Holy	Impurity	Purity
Judge	Transgression	Righteousness
Savior	Self-righteousness	Calling on his name
Father	Broken relationship	Becoming a child of God
Groom	Unfaithfulness	Faithfulness
Shepherd	Wandering	Following

Table 3.1

Sin or Sinful State	Correct Response	Blessings
Transgression, guilt, rebellion, disobedience	Faith and obedience	Justification, forgiveness
Falling short	Calling on God's name	Reconciliation
Captivity	Serving Jesus	Redemption, liberation
Blindness	Recognizing our blindness	Illumination
Deadness	Recognizing our deadness	Regeneration, life
Enemy of God	Ceasing our hostilities	Peace, reconciliation
Not a child of God	Repentance, returning	Adoption, reconciliation
Uncleanness, impurity	Recognizing our uncleanness	Sanctification, purification
Separation	Returning	Union
Idolatry	Worshipping God	God's favor
Shamefulness	Honoring God	Restoration, face
Wandering, erring, going astray	Walking in God's ways	Being on the correct path, wisdom
Wickedness	Godliness	Godly flourishing

Table 3.2

Jesus	Sin or Sinful State	Correct Response
Creator	Idolatry	Worship
King, Messiah, Christ	Rebellion	Repentance and submission
Holy, Priest	Impurity	Purity
Judge	Transgression	Righteousness
Savior	Self-righteousness	Calling on his name
Groom	Unfaithfulness	Faithfulness
Shepherd	Wandering	Following
Living Water	Thirsting	Drinking

Jesus	Sin or Sinful State	Correct Response
Living Bread	Starving	Eating
The Way	Wandering	Following
The Truth	Falsehood	Believing
The Life	Death	Living
The Vine	Nonparticipation	Participation, union
Light	Blindness	Illumination
Word	Deafness	Hearing

Table 3.3

Jesus	What Jesus Does	Sinful State
King, Messiah, Christ	Rules	Rebellion
Savior	Saves	Self-righteousness
Priest	Reconciles	Separation and impurity
Shepherd	Shepherds	Going astray
Servant	Obeys	Disobedience
Groom	Loves	Unfaithfulness
Word	Reveals God	Ignorance of God
The Way	Reveals the way	Lostness
The Truth	Reveals the truth	Error
The Life	Gives eternal life	Death

Table 3.4

CHAPTER 4

EVANGELISM TO POSTMODERNS



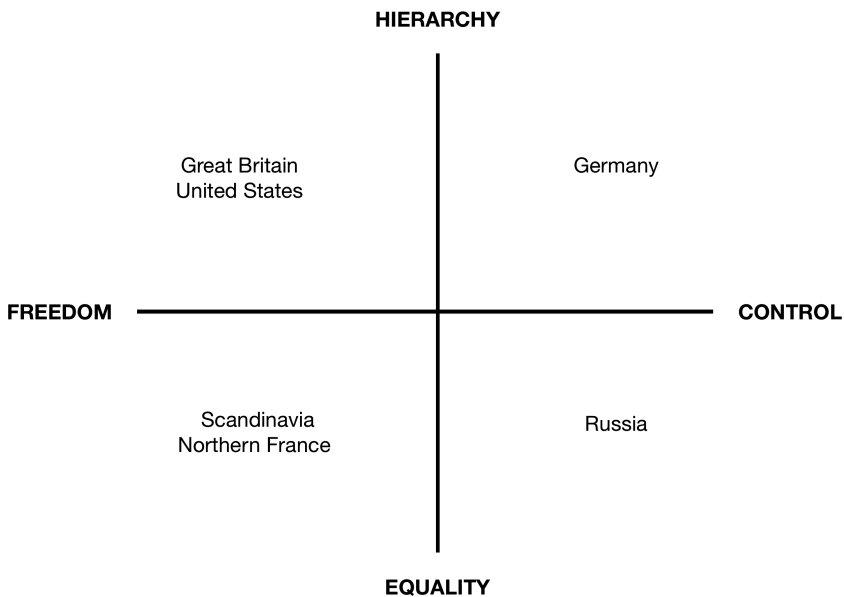
Summarizing the Differences

For a summary of the key differences between a modern and a postmodern audience, download the PDF from [ZondervanAcademic.com](https://www.ZondervanAcademic.com).

To access this resource, register on the website as a student. Then sign in and download the resource from the "Study Resources" tab on the book page for *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*.

CHAPTER 5

CONTEXTUALIZATION FOR EVANGELISM



Paul G. Hiebert, *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2008), 27. Copyright 2008. Used by permission of Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

CHAPTER 6

GOSPEL-CULTURAL HERMENEUTICS



From Cultural Text to Jesus

For six examples of how to contextualize a message for a particular culture or community, watch the videos available at ZondervanAcademic.com.

To access this resource, register on the website as a student. Then sign in and download the resource from the “Study Resources” tab on the book page for *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*.

CHAPTER 7

STORYTELLING THE GOSPEL



What Learning Style Are You?

For fun, we can take this test to see what our preferred learning style is. Are we a literate (abstract) or an oral (concrete-relational) learner? Download a PDF questionnaire to find out your own learning style at ZondervanAcademic.com.

To access this resource, register on the website as a student. Then sign in and download the resource from the “Study Resources” tab on the book page for *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*.

HOW TO GIVE EVANGELISTIC EXPOSITORY TALKS

BIBLE PASSAGES BY CONTEXT

Bible Passage	Setting
Eccles. 3:1–14	Wedding
Eccles. 4:9–12	Wedding
Matt. 20:1–16	Youth group
Mark 4:1–20	High school chapel
Luke 8:22–56	Church service
Luke 12:13–21	City workers
Luke 14:15–24	Youth rally
Luke 16:19–31	Church service
Luke 18:9–14	City workers
Luke 19:1–10	Youth rally
John 3:16	High school chapel
John 4:1–26	Church service
John 20:1–10	Youth group (in a dark cave!)
Acts 17:31	Youth group
Rom. 5:6–8	Wedding
Rom. 6:23	Church service
Rom. 8:14–17	Youth conference
1 Cor. 15:50–58	Airport chapel (Chicago O'Hare)
Eph. 5:21–33	Wedding
Phil. 2:1–11	Wedding
1 Peter 3:18	Church service
1 John 4:10	Wedding
Rev. 21:1–4	Wedding

CHAPTER 10

RELIGIOUS EPISTEMOLOGY, APOLOGETICS, AND DEFEATER BELIEFS



The Obama Heckler

Have a look at this YouTube clip of the “Obama Heckler”: <https://youtu.be/9cP-FTX5tVg>.

As a Christian, I believe—at a purely ontologically, cognitive informational level (the *logos*)—that what the heckler shouts is true: “Jesus Christ is the one and only true living God.” I think most of us would agree with him and tick the box that “Jesus Christ is the one and only true living God.” But if we didn’t share the heckler’s presuppositions, then the heckler is unpersuasive—it is difficult at an epistemological level to believe his ontological claim—because he has not won us over at the level of *ethos* or *pathos*. This clip also supports the claim that I was making in a previous chapter on contextualization. What we say is not always what others hear. It is not enough to transfer information when we evangelize. We need to speak in ways that our culture can hear and understand.

CONCLUSION

	Hostile	Open	Considering	Trying It Out	Entry-Level Acceptance	Switching Over	Loyal
Character-istics	"There's nothing to this gluten free diet. It's a fad and a waste of time."	"Maybe there's something to this gluten-free diet, but I'm not buying Bumper."	"Maybe Bumper Gluten Free is an okay brand."	"Bumper Gluten Free tastes okay. Maybe I should buy it."	"Okay, I've bought Bumper Gluten Free, and now it's in my repertoire of brands, but I'm not exclusive to it. I still buy other brands."	"Bumper Gluten Free is what I eat."	"I buy only Bumper Gluten Free, and I tell others they should eat it too."
Levers	Social Forces • friends are eating gluten free		Trials and Promotions • free samples • sale prices Easy Access • prominent on shelves • near the checkout Wisdom • seems to work for friends Felt Need • need a healthy diet Crisis • health scare	Benefits • notices benefits to eating Behavior • behaves as a Bumper eater (wears the T-shirt with the company's logo) Belonging • finds belonging with a community of Bumper eaters		Daily Eating	

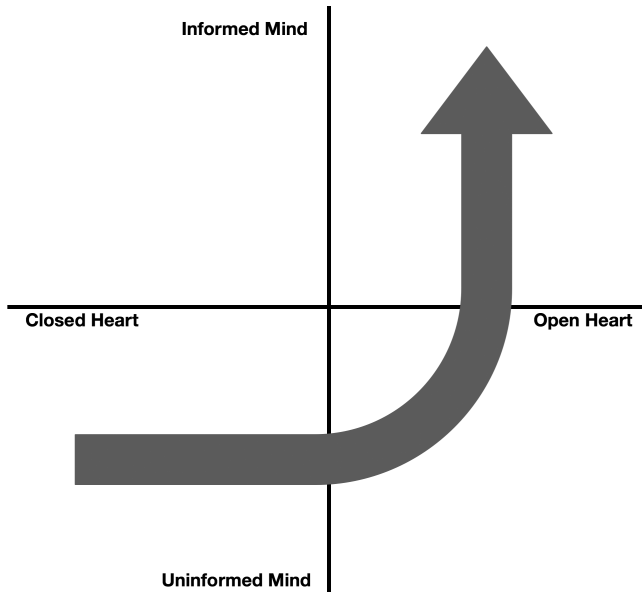
Table 11.1

	Hostile	Open	Considering	Trying It Out	Entry-Level Acceptance	Switching Over	Loyal
Characteristics	"There's nothing to religion. It's a fad and a waste of time."	"Maybe there's something to religion, but it doesn't have to be Christianity."	"Maybe Christianity is okay."	"I should check out Christianity."	"Being a Christian is okay, but I'm not exclusive about it."	"I've decided to become a Christian."	"I'm loyal to Christianity and want to tell others about Jesus."
Levers	Social Forces • friends are religious or Christians	Trials and Promotions • "preevangelism" events • church sports team • introductory courses to Bible and Christianity Easy Access to the "Sacred" • carols church service • family service Wisdom • seems to work for friends • sees wisdom and love in Christians Felt Need • children's play group • parenting seminars • kids vacation club Crisis • health scare • loss of job, relationship, health, house	Benefits • good for children • good for marriage • cared for • talks have meaning, wisdom, application Behavior • goes to church • reads Bible • prays • signs up for rosters Belonging • finds belonging with a community of Christian believers	Behaves as a Christian • serves • rosters Church • Christian friends • Bible studies • training • conferences			

Table 11.2

THE GRAY MATRIX

Tim has brilliantly captured with his Bumper Gluten Free Bread analogy, in vivid concrete images, what the Gray Matrix (see figure) also tries to capture.*



According to the Gray Matrix, the journey to belief begins in the bottom left quadrant (closed heart to the gospel and a mind uninformed by the gospel) to the top right quadrant (open heart to the gospel and a mind informed by the gospel). Our job as evangelists is both to open hearts and inform minds with the gospel.

In my observations and in my experiences doing evangelism, many post-Christian Westerners belong in the top left quadrant: they are informed already by the gospel but have closed their hearts to it. But many of our efforts as evangelists are spent still trying to inform them with the gospel when we also need to be opening their hearts to the gospel. Conversely, many Asian-Americans, when they grow up in the USA, already have their hearts open. So when we evangelize them with information about the gospel, they prove to be good soil, and our efforts at evangelism often lead to much fruit. This probably helps to explain at least one reason for the growing numbers of Asian Christians in Western churches today.

* <http://thegraymatrix.org/>. Accessed April 7, 2017.

APPENDIX

Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?

Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.

LAW 1

God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).

God's Plan

[Christ speaking] “I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly” [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10).

Why is it that most people are not experiencing that abundant life?
Because . . .

LAW 2

Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

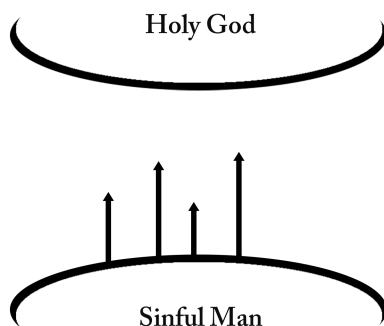
Man Is Sinful

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his own stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

Man Is Separated

“The wages of sin is death” [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23).



This diagram illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion—but he inevitably fails.

The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf . . .

LAW 3

Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for man’s sin. Through Him you can know and experience God’s love and plan for your life.

He Died in Our Place

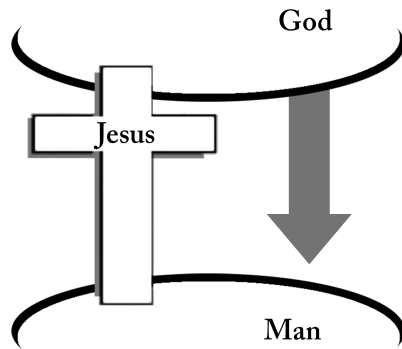
“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

He Rose from the Dead

“Christ died for our sins . . . He was buried . . . He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures . . . He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred . . .” (1 Corinthians 15:3–6).

He Is the Only Way to God

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me’” (John 14:6).



This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

It is not enough just to know these three laws . . .

LAW 4

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ

“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

We Receive Christ through Faith

“By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as result of works that no one should boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth

(Read John 3:1–8.)

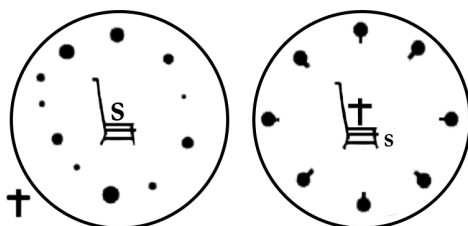
We Receive Christ through Personal Invitation

[Christ speaking] “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him” (Revelation 3:20).

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He

wants us to be. Just to agree **intellectually** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an **emotional** experience. We receive Jesus Christ by **faith**, as an act of the **will**.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives:



Self-Directed Life

- S** Self is on the throne
- †** Christ is outside the life
- Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration

Christ-Directed Life

- †** Christ is in the life and on the throne
- S** Self is yielding to Christ
- Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

Which circle best represents your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

The following explains how you can receive Christ:

You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith through Prayer (Prayer is talking with God)

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

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