



Evangelism to other religions survey

At the beginning of 2002 I embarked on a year long task to conduct a survey in the churches I spoke in. It was designed to help better understand the degree to which the evangelical church was sharing the Gospel with those who have a religion other than Christianity. The following was how the survey read:

I witness to people of other religions occasionally (Mormons, Wiccans, Jehovah's Witness, Muslims, Hindus, etc.)

If not, what is the primary reason you choose not to witness to those who profess another religious belief?

- A. I feel I do not know enough about their religious beliefs to witness to them (54.1%)
- B. I do not know my own faith and Bible well enough. (22.8%)
- C. They seem to have made their decision to follow another faith and I would rather talk to those who have no other religious faith. (11%)
- D. I would rather leave that up to ministers. It is not my calling. (4.8%)
- E. I have other reasons and they are _____. (35%)

Of those who responded to the survey 36% said they were witnessing and 64% said they were not (It is my personal belief that many who were not witnessing did not respond to the survey and therefore, the number not witnessing is probably higher.) Many who said they were not witnessing put down more than one reason for not doing so. The only reason given for (E) was that the respondent was not encountering people of other religions.

The survey seems to strongly indicate two things. One, that many more people might witness if they knew more of the other person's teachings and that there is a significant portion (22.8%) who need to become more grounded in their Christian faith. The responses to (C) and (D) would indicate that many in the Church need to pray for a burden for the lost, especially for those of other religious backgrounds. People who do not even attempt to witness usually are those who fail to see the true spiritual danger that the unregenerate soul faces.

I designed the survey to give me and others in this area of ministry an idea of how we might better serve the Church through education. Though I found a few of the numbers startling, it does reveal that this area of ministry (the need to expose false religious groups and promote witnessing through the use of applied Christian Apologetics) does not appear in danger of becoming obsolete anytime soon.