

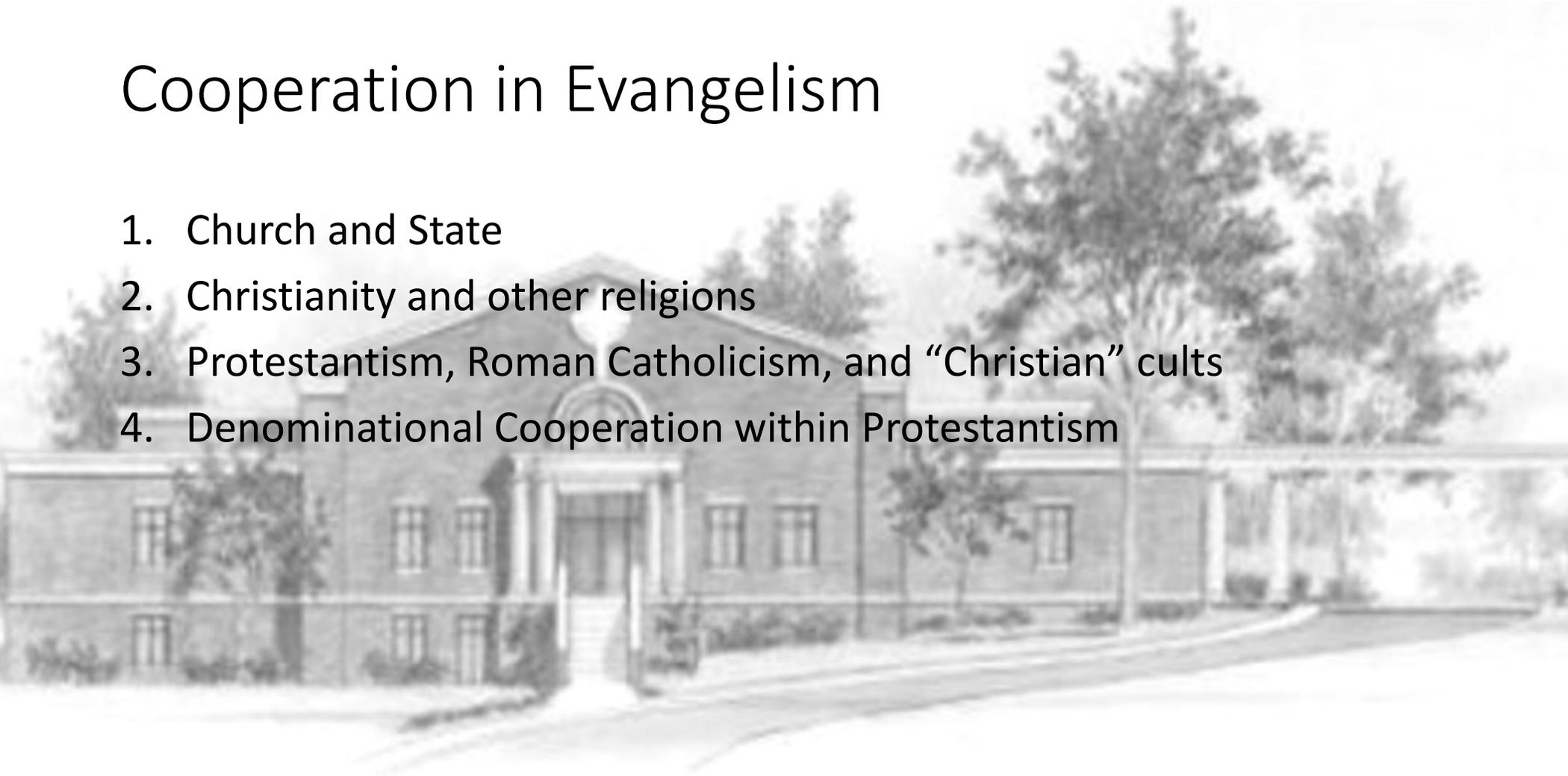


God Centered Evangelism

Co-operation in Evangelism

Cooperation in Evangelism

1. Church and State
2. Christianity and other religions
3. Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, and “Christian” cults
4. Denominational Cooperation within Protestantism



Church and State

1. God is sovereign over all – Ps 135:6
2. God establishes the authority of both the Church and the State
 - A. Rom 13:3-4, WCF Chap 23 - Purpose of the State
 - B. Matt 28:19-20, WCF Chap 23 – Mission of the Church
3. Sovereignty of God seen in both spheres of authority given to Church and State.
4. They are not completely independent from one another. The Church cannot make or enforce law but is required to speak into the moral nature of those laws. The state must protect the free exercise of religion but not become or supplant the church.

History of Church and State

1. History is replete with examples where the Church and State assumed roles not their own.
 - A. Saul and Uzziah angered God by performing the duties of the priests
 - B. Charlemagne forced entire nations to be baptized at sword point.
 - C. Many European States sanctioned some denominations over others, leading to much Christian persecution (Hence our first amendment).
 - D. Churches in Germany became a tool of the State to subdue the members.
2. Much of this unholy alliance hindered missionary work.
3. Because of state sponsorship of churches, missionary work became political, leading to predictable outcomes.
4. Boxer rebellion in China in 1900 was a result of intense hatred for foreigners and their internal meddling with China's affairs. Over 200 missionaries, as well as thousands of Chinese converts, were killed as a result.
5. Church and State cooperation in evangelism is not a good thing.

Christianity and other religions



1. Many believe in an “all roads lead to heaven” worldview.
2. This has led some to reject traditional missionary evangelism for syncretism.
3. The pagan views all religions as the same (Just co-exist bumper sticker) – many are resistant to any attempt for one group to change another group and prevent proselytizing all together.
4. While some religions outside Christianity contain some truths, they all deny the basic tenants of Christianity.
5. God of the bible, God of Christianity, is God alone. Ps 86:10
6. All other God’s are idols.

Christ Alone

1. Jesus Christ is the one savior. John 14:6, Acts 4:12
2. Salvation by grace in the only way. Eph 2:8
3. Salvation by human effort leads to destruction. This is what all other religions teach.
4. It is obvious, since we have no common message, that evangelistic cooperation is not compatible between Christians and non-Christians. 2 Cor 6:14-18
5. Doesn't mean we cannot unite against such things as religious persecution.

Protestantism, Jews, Roman Catholicism and cults

1. Don't Protestants, Jews and Roman Catholics worship the same God?
2. Nope
 - A. Jews reject Jesus as savior and God.
 - B. RC reject justification by faith alone and also believe the Church imparts saving grace to the believer.
3. Other cults that claim to be Christian:
 - A. Mormons
 - B. Jehovah's Witness
 - C. Both deny the Lordship of Christ
4. Because these religions also deny the tenants of Biblical Christianity, they are not good co-laborers in evangelism.

Denominational Cooperation

1. Within the pale of orthodoxy (Biblical truths about Jesus – Gods appointed mediator)
 - A. To preach anything but the Biblical Jesus is heretical
 - B. Korah's rebellion (Num 16:11-40)
 - C. The biblical Jesus is our only mediator

BIBLICAL JESUS	VS	MODERN JESUS
- Born as God Almighty in the flesh <small>(John 1:1-14)</small>		- Was a good teacher and man
- Loves us enough to speak the truth <small>(John 4:1-38)</small>		- Waters down words to avoid offense
- Points us toward eternal treasure <small>(Matthew 6:19-21)</small>		- Promises us earthly treasure
- Warns of sin, judgement & hell <small>(Matthew 5:29)</small>		- Sends all to heaven, dismisses hell
- Commands repentance of sins <small>(Matthew 4:17)</small>		- Minimizes need for repentance of sins
- Gives you salvation, hope, peace & joy <small>(John 15:9-17 & John 14:1-14,27)</small>		- Gives you health, wealth & happiness
- Hated & despised by the world <small>(John 15:18)</small>		- Loved & accepted by the world
- Hates sin & exposes the truth about sin <small>(John 3:18-21)</small>		- Overlooks sin & never corrects you
- Commands with divine authority <small>(Mark 5:1-20)</small>		- Gives suggestions not commandments
- Says to expect persecution in his name <small>(Matthew 10:22)</small>		- Promises our best life now
- Brings division when necessary <small>(Luke 12:49-56)</small>		- Promotes unity & tolerance at all costs
- Exalts God the Father's will <small>(John 6:38)</small>		- Serves your will above God's will
- Warns of false signs & wonders; magnifies God's Word <small>(Matthew 24:24)</small>		- Exalts signs, wonders & mysticism above God's Word
- Demands that emotion, experience & opinion conform to sound teaching <small>(Matthew 23:1-39)</small>		- Exalts emotion, experience & opinion above sound teaching
- Commands you to deny yourself & be willing to lay down your life for God <small>(Matthew 16:24)</small>		- Encourages you to love yourself first & gratify all your fleshly desires

Denominational Cooperation

2. We should work together to further the Kingdom
 - A. Bible translation
 - B. Distribution of God's Word
 - C. Supporting Missionaries from other denominations
 - D. Advocating for admission of missionaries into foreign lands
 - E. Keeping open airways for Christian broadcasting
 - F. Working together in benevolence and outreach
3. Theological differences will cause friction:
 - A. God's sovereignty in regeneration vs man's will
 - B. Pedobaptism
4. Maintain charity between brothers, within the truth of Scripture, for the furtherance of the Kingdom.

Discussion/Questions

