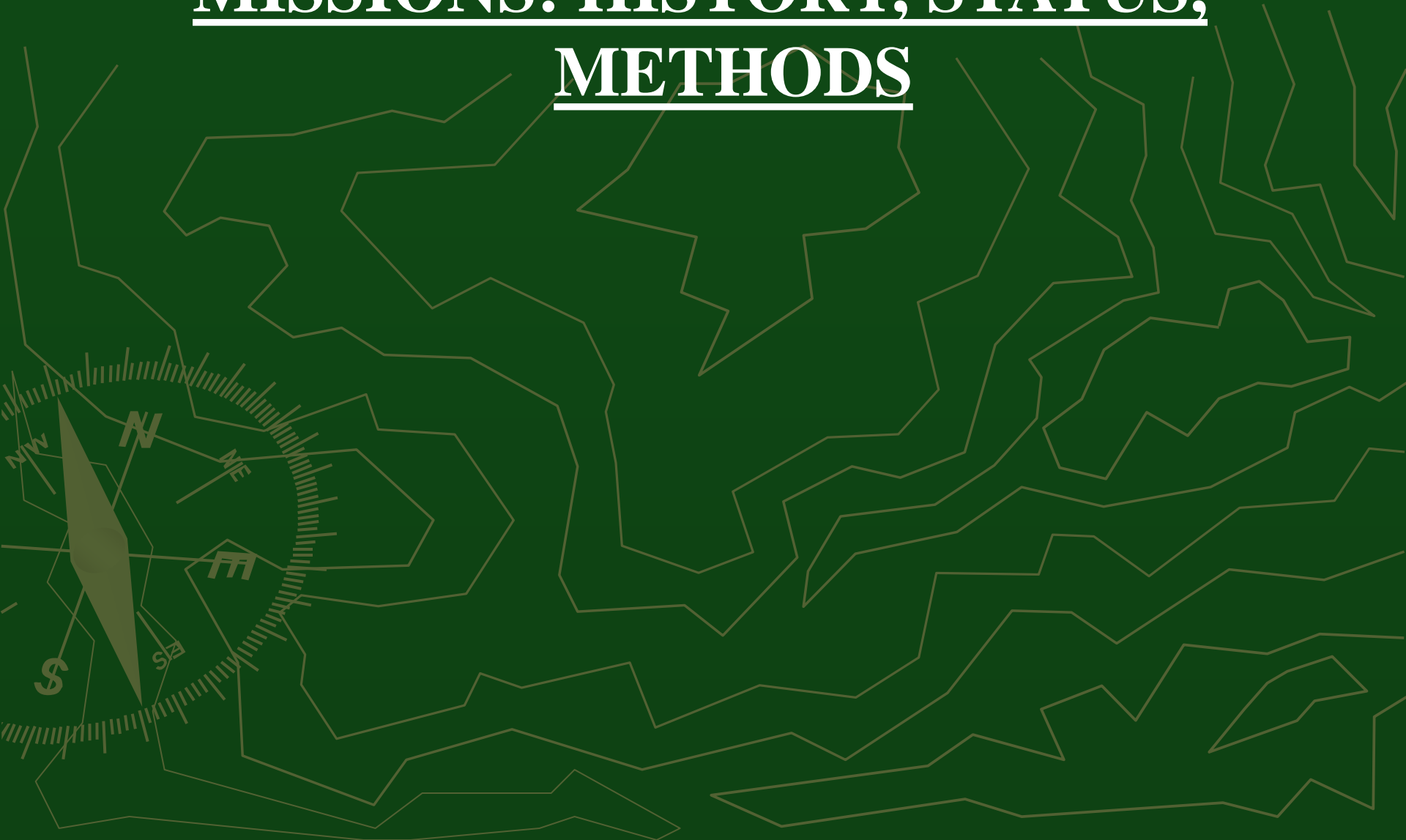


MISSIONS: HISTORY, STATUS, METHODS



STATUS OF MISSIONS IN THE WORLD TODAY

Europe is essentially “pagan” with less than 5% of the population classified as evangelical Christians. It is no longer a major sending force in world missions. Europe is in a “post Christian” era.

STATUS OF MISSIONS IN THE WORLD TODAY

American Christianity is deeply engrossed in secular materialism. Fewer missionaries are going out and less funds are being given to the need. People spend more on dog food today than is given to missions.

WHAT CHRISTIANS EARN:

Annual income of Evangelical Christians is approximately \$6.72 trillion.

WHAT PEOPLE GIVE:

Given to any Christian causes:
\$896 billion.

(That's also how much we spend in America on Christmas.)

Given to Missions: \$52 billion

That's only 5.78% of the money given to Christian causes of any kind (2022).

Americans have recently spent more money buying Halloween costumes for their pets than the amount given to reach the unreached.

HOW CHRISTIAN GIVING IS USED:

- Ministries of **local churches** (mostly in Christian nations): \$734 billion (82%)
- **“Home Missions”** in same Christian nations: \$107.5 billion (12%)
- To **Un-Evangelized Non-Christian world**: \$51.7 billion (5.7%) *(different from “Unreached”)*
- To **Unreached Peoples**: Estimated \$880 million (1.7%)
- *For every \$100,000 that Christians make, they give \$1.70 to the unreached.*

“Until recently, Americans spent more on golf balls and twinkies than was given to reach the unreachable.”

— Claude Hickman



- **\$124 billion** was spent on our furry friends in the U.S. – an equivalent to the net worth of Bill Gates or 163,157 houses in New York City.
- An average U.S. pet owner will spend **\$1,480** a year on their dog and **\$902** on their cat.

These are 2021 statistics, so add in current inflation!

Church attendance in America amounts to about 25% of the population on any Sunday. Commitment is sorely lacking and godly living is virtually missing. Overall there is little missions impetus.

As of 2022 there are 8 billion people in the world

There are billions of people alive today who have never heard of Jesus Christ, let alone the gospel.

There are about 1.7 billion Muslims in the world (almost 25% of the world's population).

A recent survey by the Barna group determined that about half of evangelical Christians have shared their faith with others. But a surprising result of the survey was that whites share their faith less than black or Hispanic evangelicals.

While half of all born-again whites (49%) evangelized in the past year, almost two-thirds of born-again blacks (63%) had done so and three-quarters of born-again Hispanics (76%) were active in spreading their faith views.



Methods of evangelism among American Christians

Pray with a non-Christian who was in need
of encouragement or support.

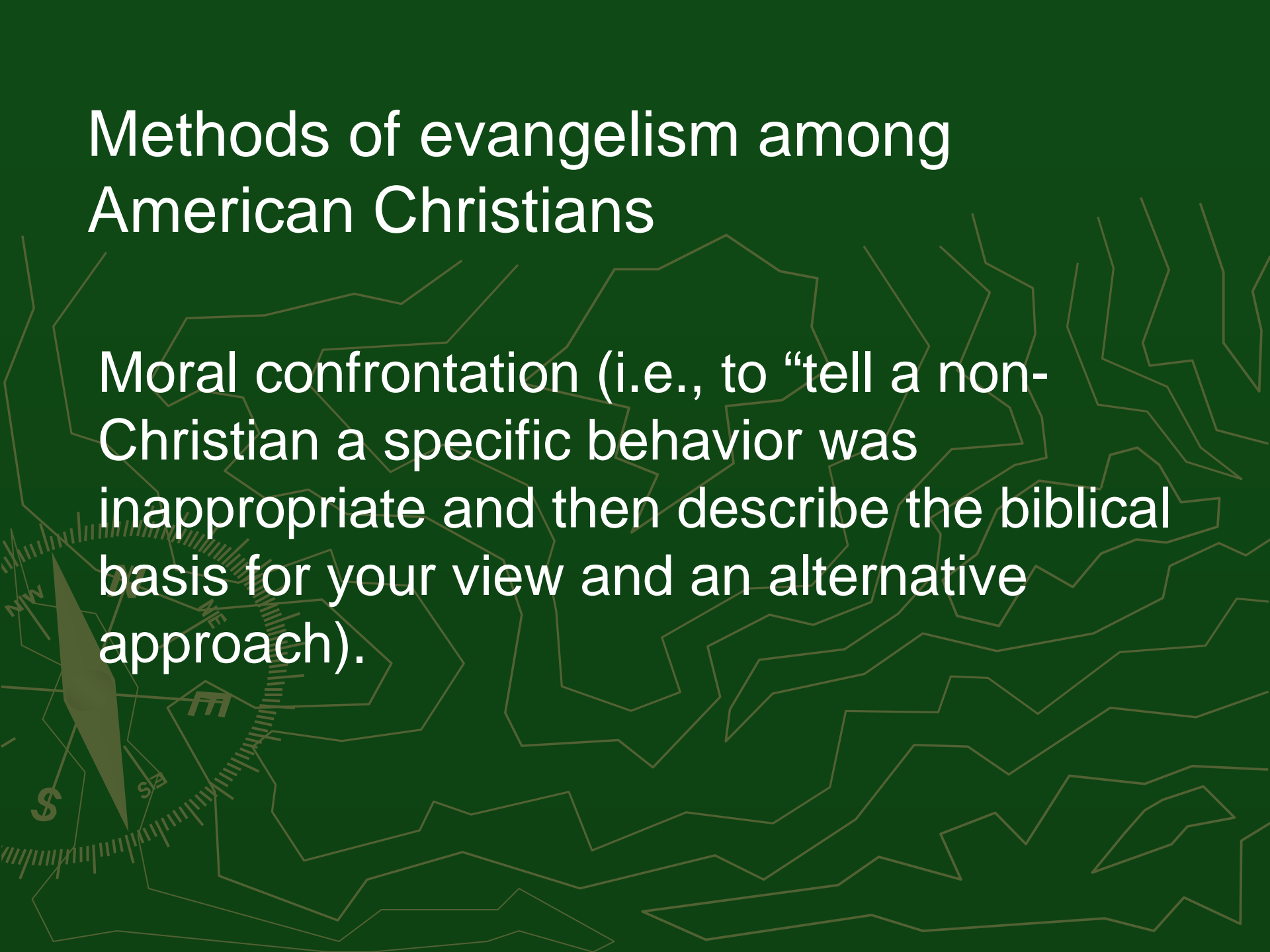


Methods of evangelism among American Christians

“Socratic evangelism” – Start a discussion in which you intentionally asked what a non-Christian believes concerning a particular moral or spiritual matter, and continue to ask questions about their views without telling them they are wrong, but challenge them to explain their thinking and its implications.

Methods of evangelism among American Christians

Moral confrontation (i.e., to “tell a non-Christian a specific behavior was inappropriate and then describe the biblical basis for your view and an alternative approach).

The background of the slide is a dark green color with a complex, light-colored line pattern that resembles a topographic map or a network of paths. In the lower-left corner, there is a faint, stylized graphic of a compass rose with a shadowed needle pointing towards the upper-left. The compass rose includes directional markers for 'NW' and 'S', and a dollar sign (\$) is visible near the bottom left.

Methods of evangelism among American Christians

Event-oriented strategies: bringing a non-Christian friend to a church service or to an outreach event

The least-used methods were giving evangelistic literature, sending evangelistic letters or e-mails to non-Christians, and preaching on the street or other public places.

CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

15 reasons why the church has failed in missions

- Failure to teach the Great Commission as a command for the Church today.
- Failure to pray: for the lost, for the spread of the gospel, for missionaries on the field, for workers to go and work in the field.
- Too few in the Church being involved in missions by going.

CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

15 reasons why the church has failed in missions

- lack of adequate financial support by the church at home.
- by concentrating on evangelism to the neglect of discipleship (i.e., making converts and not disciples).
- By a failure to preach a pure gospel instead of one that has been watered down or distorted.

CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

15 reasons why the church has failed in missions

- By a shallow teaching of the Word of God.
- By contextualizing the message rather than the method of communication.
- By focusing on social/physical needs while neglecting spiritual needs.

CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

15 reasons why the church has failed in missions

- By meeting spiritual needs while ignoring physical/social needs. (Livingstone living among the people instead of isolating himself)
- By failing to identify with, respect and relate well to the culture of the people being ministered to.

CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

15 reasons why the church has failed in missions

- By the missionaries doing all the work of the ministry and not involving and equipping the nationals (so that when the missionary leaves, the work usually stops).
- By concentrating on buildings, facilities and equipment instead of edification of the people and training of leadership.

- By refusal to modify traditional missionary methodology to meet contemporary needs of both missionaries and nationals. The result is a failure to fulfill the Great Commission, with these results:

Too few missionaries ministering the gospel and sound doctrine to too few people in too few places.

Too few churches involved in missions in any significant way.

Too few converts growing to maturity and becoming involved in doing the work of the ministry.