

PH508 Issues in Apologetics
Dr. William Dyrness: Summer 1994

Class Presentation

The Nation of Islam

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by

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The Situation

- Islam is considered the fastest growing religion in the United States.
- In the United States there are now 23,600,000 adherents (1 in 10 Americans!). Of those 56% are not indigenous to the U.S. (13,216,000). 2% are Anglo or Hispanic. 42% are African-American (9,912,000).
- In other words approximately 95% of all converts to Islam are African-Americans (9,912,000!!!!).

(Statistics come from interview with Rev. Mike Wilson, founding member of "**Project Joseph**" based here in Pasadena. Project Joseph conducts Muslim Awareness Seminars across the U.S.)

Where is it growing?

Conversions to Islam are primarily occurring in three areas:

- ♦ Prisons
- ♦ Schools: Colleges and High Schools
- ♦ Urban Areas

Why in those areas?

- There are five major sects of Islam in the U.S. Two of those are "**The Nation of Islam**" (Led by Louis Farrakhan) (there is another Sect with the *same* name led by Silas Muhammad!) and the "**The Five Percent Nation of Islam**". Both are specifically and aggressively targeting Young Black Males. The "**5 percenters**" use Rap Music. "Farrakhan's Nation" uses direct personal confrontation.
- In February of 1994, Louis Farrakhan's **Nation of Islam** assembled 30,000 Black men for a rally in Houston, Texas. The media attention was overwhelming. Beyond the media's coverage, this event gave a significant favorable impression of *strength* and *success* to thousands of young African-American males.

Apologetic

A. Some of the apparent motivations and convictions of the Nation of Islam:

1. We must save young African American men from the effects of urban blight because we are uniquely qualified to do so.
2. The Christian Church, including Black Churches, because of the influence of "White Christianity" is incompetent to save young African American men.
3. In fact, "White Christianity" is one of the major tools that has been used to establish racism and oppression that has resulted in urban blight.
4. In order for young African American men to be happy and succeed in life they must:
 1. *Believe that Allah is God.*
 2. *Submit to Allah as God*
 3. *Obey the Disciplines of Islam (Pillars).*

Then they will receive Love and Mercy from Allah.

Pillars of Islam:

- i. Reciting the Creed (Declaration of Faith)
- ii. Daily Duty of Prayers;
- iii. Almsgiving (Zakat);
- iv. Fasting (including monthlong Ramadan)
- v. Pilgrimage to Mecca

B. A Christian Response to and Evaluation of some of the apparent motivations and convictions of the Nation of Islam:

(Responding directly to the 4 point outline of prior section)

1. We agree that young African American Men must be saved from the effects of urban blight. (Luke 4:18ff)

We perceive that the Nation of Islam is successfully and positively effecting young African American men in surviving urban blight. We applaud this!

2. We believe that the True Church, as established by Jesus Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is uniquely qualified to save young African American men. (Acts 1:8)
3. We believe that Christianity has often been poorly lived out. [The Nation of Islam terms it "White Christianity", We call this "Christianity-ism"], and the results have clearly contributed to institutional racism. This "Christianity-ism" is an evidence of the reality of individual and corporate Sin and should not be an indictment of Jesus Christ. (Rom 3:23)
4. We perceive the convictions of the Nation of Islam to be grounded in "Works Righteousness" without Grace. In fact, failing to obey Allah results in retribution.

C. A Biblical Response Designed to equip young African-American men as they encounter the Nation of Islam:

1. You have been created by a loving God who has built into you dignity, worth and potential as a young African American male. (Psalm 139)
2. We do not earn our salvation by our own self-effort, but we receive it as a gift of Grace and Mercy from Jesus Christ who died for our sins. (Romans 6:23)
3. The Holy Spirit transforms and empowers us to live a life pleasing to God. This is not a matter of our own self-discipline. (2 Cor 5:17; Ezekiel 36:27)
4. Because of your intrinsic value to God, both he and we are committed to your success and future as a young African American male. (Jeremiah 29:12-13)
5. Jesus Christ has promised that He will never leave you nor forsake you, that no one will snatch you out of His hand, and that His Holy Spirit will give you discernment and wisdom in all matters. (John 10:23; Heb 13:5)
6. It is true that there is Racism, Sin, Oppression, etc - but you are special and you have been called and uniquely gifted by God to be a part of the solution! (Acts 1:8)

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The Sketch

Brad gives the Introduction

Act 1: The goodbye by the Pastor

The Youth Pastor (John) prepares Okera (Danny) before Okera is going of to College. Holds a 3 or 4 point sermon which is kerygmatic in nature.

Act 2: Arrival at College

Okera comes into his room. Okera unloading his bag and getting a Bible out gets confronted by Roomate Abdullah (Christoph). who complains about his having a Bible ("White trash"). Emphasizes the Qur'an.

"What are you doing with this white trash?"

Gives him something good to read (Basic Islam or else)
and finished "Read this and let us talk about that tomorrow"

Act 3: Biblestudy

Intervarsity staff (Brad) is performing. Anonymous Person (John) is attending.

Okera comes in. Welcome by leader(Brad)..

Okera mentions some problems with roommate.

Introduction to Inerrancy Thema.

John 1. Biblical foundations.

Okera leaves because not understood..

Act 4: Return from College

Okera comes back into his room where his roommate and the Islamic "Brother Minister" (Rudy) is waiting. Rudy is giving him a lecture while Abdullah inserts "Speak it Black man!"..

Finally they move off to the mosque.

