

The Plain Man's Guide to Evangelical Vocabulary
by Jon Garvey

One common problem for outsiders coming into the church is their difficulty in understanding the religious jargon we use. To help overcome this, I have compiled phrases which might also be of some educational value to experienced Christians as well.

<u>Jargon</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
"Outreach"	Talking to your neighbour to invite him to an evangelistic event.
"Worldliness"	Talking to your neighbour at any other time.
"Backslider"	Christian who drinks or smokes.
"Good Christian"	Christian who doesn't tell anyone he drinks or smokes.
"Materialist"	Someone who earns more than you do.
"Schism"	Discussing differences of opinion.
"Unity"	Stifling differences of opinion.
"This book/play/music is unchristian"	I didn't enjoy it.
"This book/play/music is satanic"	I didn't understand it.
"Dishonouring the Sabbath"	Working on the day when God started his creation and raised his Son from the dead.
"Legalism"	Teaching as doctrine the precepts of men (unless they are the traditions of one's own church).
"Charismatic Movement"	Tendency for some Christians to go over the top (much as the apostles did in Acts).
"Satan's Kingdom"	Communism and Socialism (or Fascism and Conservatism if one lives in Wales or north of Birmingham).

As one can see from these few examples much patience is needed with the new Christian, who may take some time to comprehend our religious language. Fortunately we can teach him one simple phrase with little difficulty, which may make him easily understood by all of us, if we make the effort to understand his unfamiliar pronunciation. This phrase is "Jesus is Lord".