

# CASE STUDY

## THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Steven Green's family had always belonged to the A.M.E. Church. When a reporter asked to interview Steve about what it means to be a member of the A.M.E. Church for a series of articles on religion for the local newspaper, Steve readily agreed.

The following is a portion of that interview:

Reporter: What are the basic doctrines of the A.M.E. Church and where did they come from?

Steve: The basic doctrines of the A.M.E. Church are the Arguments of Religion. There are 29 of them and they were adopted from John Calvin and the Church of Rome.

Reporter: What are the sacraments of the A.M.E. Church?

Steve: There are three: Baptism, Holy Communion and Marriage.

Reporter: Some churches teach that one should pray to God and Jesus and all of the saints. What do you believe?

Steve: We believe that one should pray primarily to God and Jesus, but when I'm in trouble, I'll pray to Christopher or Peter or Jude or whoever I think can help me out.

Reporter: Some churches teach that one should endeavor to speak in tongues. What does the A.M.E. Church teach?

Steve: I think that's right. We used to have a man who came every Sunday and speak in tongues. Of course, nobody understood him, but everyone thought it was cool, so now a lot of us do it when the service gets boring.

Reporter: Would you recommend that someone join the A.M.E. Church?

Steve: Oh, yes! All you have to do to join is to walk down the aisle on Sunday morning. You can believe anything you want to -- and you get a guarantee that you'll go to heaven when you die.

Now is your turn? Does Steve understand the A.M.E. Church? What is wrong with his answers?