

Mannerisms

PART I

- **Mannerisms add interest**

Tone

- Moaning
- Whooping

Rhythm

- The use of rhythm in preaching is closely associated with the stereotypical use of intonation by Black preachers.
 - Lengthy intonation

Call, Response & Repetition

- Many preachers who pause momentarily to breathe or for other reasons receive a response from the audience.
- Example

The Use of Role Playing and Storytelling

The Use of Slow Delivery

The Black Context for Preaching

PART II

- Of great significance to the character of Black preaching is the setting in which Black preaching takes place.
 - The Black style, which includes the call and response, is part of a larger dialogical pattern traceable to West African culture.
 - The response requires _____
 - The uniqueness of Black preaching depends significantly upon _____
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Black Dialogue: A Description

- Black dialogue between congregation and preacher consists of the well-known cries:
 - “Amen!”
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- There are hundreds of other spontaneous audible responses. It also includes:
 - Facial expressions
 - Swaying bodies
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- Whatever the form, *the communication is real.*

- Black dialogue may even include coaching. Examples include:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

 - _____

 - Indeed, there will be disappointment and even criticism if the preacher fails to let the hearers have their part. The words truly and surely have the same value and role.
 - For example: If one quotes the 23rd Psalm in the celebration, saying “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,” one does well to leave a pause after “Surely.”
 - There is a strong correlation between real dialogue and the spiritual depth at which the sermon is pitched.
 - There is a difference between *an Amen from the heart*, which registers the considered approval of the worshiper, and the automatic, non-thinking response, which may punctuate the sermon, no matter what the preacher says.
 - The non-thinking responder is simply, *reacting without hearing* assuming a customary role in the worship without bothering to know what has been said.
 - At other times, such a person wants the preacher to sound impressive and therefore is rooting for the preacher as a kind of one-person cheering squad, no matter what is said.
 - Real dialogue, on the other hand, is more *easily discernable*.
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Dialogue and Felt Need

- Black preaching *at its best* has remained focused on problems that people confront daily and feel real needs in meeting. People who are oppressed are often preoccupied with problems. The Black preacher has had to give strength for the current day’s journey, the guidance and vision for extended survival in an absurdly trying existence.
- What the Black audience requires for the dialogue is both gut-survival themes and nourishing certainty. This is what they live by.
- The dialogue is lively when *needs are met* and the concepts used are within reach of the hearers.