

General Topics :: 5 Points Against (Inappropriate Dressing) edit

5 Points Against (Inappropriate Dressing) edit, on: 2006/6/19 21:55

Hand-Cuffed at Halbrook Lake

Now that we are in the summer months, the campuses are empty but the beaches and lakes are packed. Jeff, LauRen, and I headed to Halbrook lake on Sunday around 4:30pm to preach open air. I had seen the lake at this time packed surprisingly. I can only image how packed it will be when we go on a Saturday afternoon.

First we had car problems. My van still won't start. But we borrowed a friends vehicle and made it to the lake to find that there were still many people there.

I started the open air preaching with my 5 Point Sermon Against Bikinis.

1. The Rear End
2. The Left Thigh
3. The Right Thigh
4. The Stomach
5. The Chest

I thought this was a pretty strong case, a very persuasive argument against bikinis. There were many women on this beach each wearing such things.

"If you don't mind guys seeing those parts of your body then there is something wrong with you. Anyone out here who is wearing a bikini, you have something terribly wrong with you. The purpose of clothing is to cover, but a bikini is nothing more than fancy under-wear!"

There was an angry man who claimed atheism who continued to threaten me. "Move farther away from my truck" he yelled at me. His truck was already a good 5 feet or so away. I moved farther down. I kept preaching, a good size crowd gathered and he came back. Again, "move farther away from my truck." At this point I knew he didn't care about his truck, seeing it was already very far away from me, he just wanted to tell me what to do and disrupt my meeting. He then shoved me off the railing. I decided to move even farther down so that he wouldn't be able to disrupt the meeting in this manner again.

This spot where I was standing, on the park railing, was better than the others because I knew there was a sign next to me that I could hold to stay balanced. So moving those times resulted in the blessing of the Lord.

Sure enough, it wasn't hard to get a meeting with a crowd back up and going. The attendance ranged from 10-20 people of all ages. There wasn't much competition at the beach area of this lake. A preacher preaching is a big event at a small lake like this.

Adults would come and curse and yell and swear at me things like, "my children shouldn't have to hear this!" I was not preaching very loud, you would have to stand in the crowd to really hear what I was saying. But when a heckler would say, "I don't want my children hearing all this!" I'd reply with, "but you will bring them to a beach where there are girls wearing bikinis! This is no place for children."

At this lake in this small Texas town of Mineola, even in the bible belt, there was much sin and many sinners. I was surprised actually. The men were walking around looking at women, some were drinking beer. The women were walking around almost entirely exposed. And they had such hostility to the preaching. I was yelled at, mooned by both genders, and one girl even ripped my bible out of my hand and threw it in the lake!

After I read Romans 1:18 to the crowd, a girl ripped the bible from my hand. She said, "I like the Word of God but I don't like what you are doing with it" as she threw it in the lake! I don't like what she did with it! Brother Jeff retrieved the bible that was floating on the lake. It took a day to dry. This meeting was heavy confrontation.

After maybe 20 minutes of preaching the crowd started to calm down a little and I was able to preach more. "Stop playing with sin because sin is not playing with you! It's playing for keeps. The devil was to steal, kill, and destroy you."

A 13 year old boy started cussing me out. "How old are you?" "13." "Do you listen to Eminem and 50 cent?" "**** Yea!" "Your the blind following the blind. The devil is leading you to hell." "I don't give a ****" "I know you don't care, that's why I'm here, because God does care."

Eventually the Deputy Sheriff pulled into the parking lot. When one man saw the Deputy pull in, he pulled me off the railing and held me with his arms. He was intoxicated and apparently couldn't wait until I stopped preaching. He brought me to the officer who must have thought I needed to be restrained. She put me in hand-cuffs to talk with me and figure out the situation.

"In Texas it's illegal to offend people" she told me. "You can preach, but once we are called it becomes disorderly conduct." "If your content is offensive then it's illegal". I spoke with her for twenty minutes, asking her many questions. She went and talked to the crowd who at this point was more sympathetic towards me. She inquired to see if anyone wanted to "press charges" for offending them. She came back and said nobody in the crowd wants me in jail but they also don't want me preaching. She finally said, "I'm not telling you that you can't preach. But if we are called back here again, you are going to jail."

It was already dinner time and we were all getting hungry so we decided to go. Before leaving the police and walking back to our cars, I turned to the crowd, put my hand and my bible to my mouth, and belted out a hardy, "REPENT!"

This upcoming week Jeff and I plan on going and talking to the police station to see what we can do to secure free speech at this beach without fear of arrest.

Despite the threats, the shoving, the grabbing, the bible stealing, and the hand-cuffs, it was over all a great outreach. God was glorified, the gospel was preached, and it's my hope and prayer that God deeply touched and impacted at least one sinner to repent, and at least one Christian to boldly preach the gospel.

I've learned that Campus preaching can spoil a preacher. On a campus there are large crowds, you can have long meetings, and if it's an open campus then you don't have to worry about police. Being back on the streets and other places for the summer I feel like ministry has been back to normal. We still get crowds, and are still preaching long, but our encounters with police have increased.

Recently this summer, a trip to Canada = police encounter. Trip to Connecticut = police encounter. Trip to Dallas = police encounter. And now trip to small town Mineola of Texas = police encounter.

Strangely, I feel like ministry is back to normal.

Re: 5 Points Against Bikinis - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/19 22:01

Quote:

-----I started the open air preaching with my 5 Point Sermon Against Bikinis.

1. The Rear End
2. The Left Thigh
3. The Right Thigh
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I think the approach of even mentioning these things are not "holy" and also will bring reaction in the flesh. I don't see the apostles preaching with these type of terms in the city of Corinthians, etc. Where there was much sexual lewdness and all naughtiness.

Re:, on: 2006/6/19 22:06

Thanks brother Greg. I had that in mind when I debated which words to use. I didn't want to use any sort of crude words so I picked what I thought would not be crude terms.

It would probably be better to simply say, "I have one strong point against Bikinis. Too much flesh!"

But over all it was still an outreach blessed of the Lord.

Re:, on: 2006/6/19 23:18

1 Timothy 2:9-10 - "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." If Bikinis were in existence in the days of Paul I'm sure they would have made this list!

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2006/6/19 23:36

I appreciate your zeal brother, and someday maybe the Lord will grant me the opportunity to minister along side you in a public forum.

I personally like to open up messages with question answer sessions. An example would be to ask what is the sin of Sodom? I might in this setting ask that question several times put several different ways. Then I'd answer that question from Eze. the sin of Sodom is (eze 16:49).... I would read it and allow for the Holy Spirit to work on their minds and consciences, I would then ask questions with in questions, what is pride, what is fullness of bread, etc... and share scripture to answer each question. After I was done plowing the ground I would give them Jesus, a simple appeal of the mercy of God available to thoughts who would follow Him, maybe explain what that means, and believe the Lord to have signs and wonders following according to His word.

I found myself pointing the finger, as it were, in my early days on the streets and continually had troubles that I brought upon myself. Then the Lord changed me and I started to preach sermons instead shouting one liners, I could take those same sermons and present them in churches, now when trouble came my way I knew that it was purely for the Word's sake that it came and I had peace and joy in the midst of all that mess, and it was latter that I would hear reports from others who were there how they observed the manifest joy of the Lord and how that affected them. Just treasures I keep close to my heart as I've started to take Jesus back to the streets in these last days, Pray ye' to the Lord of the Harvest...

..

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/19 23:43

I think if you are going to preach on modesty, you should stay away from more legalistic definitions which you are going to have a hard time persuading our culture in. Instead, attack the spirit behind much of the immodest clothing.

And frankly, preaching against bikini's is not Biblical. If the prophet Isaiah, who was the father of at least 3 children, could roam around buck naked for a few years (Isaiah 20), then frankly you are going to have a hard time making such a case on Biblical grounds. Remember, past generations of Christians found it a sin to wear anything in public that didn't come down to your wrists and ankles. After all, such was showing too much flesh!

Frankly, I think there are some people, like my fiancé, who have such a modest spirit about them that they could wear a 2 piece bikini to the beach and be in the perfect will of God in doing such. Though my fiancé would never be caught dead in one doesn't change the fact that I believe she could. For even if she were, she would not be looking to reveal but to conceal just the same as if she were wearing a one piece.

Re: 5 Points Against Bikinis, on: 2006/6/20 1:20

Bro Jesse,

if you feel that the Spirit is calling you to such a ministry, who am I but a flawed slave of Christ to nay say, but brother, I've been reading your posts for a while now, and I have to tell you, in Christ Jesus, that you are doing more harm than good.

It seems to me that you preach a harsh message of condemnation that stems from a mean-spirited confrontational view that is totally at odds with the wonderous provisions and love of a Messiah who died for all.

You wrote that they "had such hostility to the preaching". Brother, I've listened to your audio files, I think that they counted reacted to your hostility...

The Lamb of God washed feet, fed people, healed them.....The Lamb of God.....gentle, kind, sinless, but stronger and higher than any mountain....."If any man is thirsty, let HIM come to me and drink".

Why would these Christless children relate to you, to them you are not even real, you are not someone they even look up to, you don't even take the time to be culturally relevant, Paul spoke extensively on this form of living out the witness of the Gospel....."when I am among the Jews, I become like a Jew"

I've seen the pictures of you and the other brothers amidst the crowds, and to these who you harangue with your turn of a burn gospel, you look like an unappetizing freaks....what do you possess that they want OR more importantly what they need?

They need Jesus, and my dear brother, you are not reflecting Jesus, your reflecting some image of fear based, scourge wielding religiosity that will garner little fruit and stumble many.

Please consider what I say, search your heart, search the Spirit, get alone with Jesus, search the 4 Gospels. This is not 1805, it's not Cane Ridge and you are not George Whitefield.

In closing, ask yourself this, in the quiet hour, do you REALLY love those you harangued for wearing bikini's?.....or do you love the fact that you get to be morally and spiritually superior to them by eschewing the flesh, and letting them know this in a loud public and hostile voice?

I wrote this post out of love, love for you, and I pray that turn from this ill-advised ministry.

Jesus is love, He is the Lamb of God that came to save all. It hurts to see misguided exhorters and religionists trashing the essence of this Living Gospel.

Consider my words, don't harden your heart with pride.

bartle

Re: 5 Points Against Bikinis - posted by teamtoucan (), on: 2006/6/20 5:41

Maybe I missed something but I don't quite get the point of the sermon outline.

The message I think should be that to dress immodestly is unloving behaviour towards others.

Jesus said some interesting things about modesty:

Matthew 5: 28 I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 18: 7 How terrible it will be for anyone who causes others to sin. Temptation to do wrong is inevitable, but how terrible it will be for the person who does the tempting.

The last thing anyone should want to do is to tempt another person to sin. So the last thing a young lady should want to do is to tempt a young man to lust after her because of the way she is dressed, in her revealing clothes.

The rule of god's love is: love your neighbour as yourself.

When females dress immodestly, they break that rule, because they tempt men to lust.

Tempting people to sin is the height of evil. Therefore, women should dress modestly, and men should teach women the truth about male sexuality so that the women agree that they would never want to tempt a man to lust by the way they dress. Men need to teach women to dress modestly, and the men need to teach women WHY it is important for them to dress modestly - that to dress immodestly is to dress without an attitude of love towards one's neighbour.

The last thing anyone should want to do is to tempt another person to sin.

God bless,

Brian

Re: Whose got the sin problem??????? - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/6/20 9:20

Quote:

-----I started the open air preaching with my 5 Point Sermon Against Bikinis.

1. The Rear End...

I beg to challenge this view point. The body is made by God, and all its parts are a glorious wonder of his handiwork. To imply that a person's body is evil is running on dangerous territory. Yet, I do not wish to dismiss the issue you bring forth: about the evils of bikinis (or any other kind of suggestive attire).

Perhaps one must consider WHY bikinis are worn in the first place. It is a trend, and people tend to follow trends. What woman wants to walk on the beach with a 1920's bathing suit! (when she's the only one) These days people, especially young adolescents can't bear the thought of being a "reject" among their significant others - their peers. Their sense of worth is tied up in their body image. That's just the way it is in our society. It's sad, but true.

Now the Amish may have licked the problem with their old-fashioned dress code, but I highly suspect that their young ladies have discovered all kinds of creative ways to be suggestive to males.

In my youth, I didn't crave boys, nor was my identity tied up in their view of me. Maybe it was because of my relationship with my father. While my peers were on the beach, I was in the hay fields with my dad. We worked together. I felt important to him. But it wasn't my attire that he cared about. It was my willingness to spend a lot of time with him, helping with the farm work. I thought he was awesome.

Today, not many young ladies have a chance to get so close to their fathers. In fact, there are many absentee fathers. We may have an entire culture of father-deprived ladies who seek to have the emptiness filled in wrong ways.

Another consideration: From the age of two socialization is the prized goal. You have to fit in. Should we really be surprised when our youth and adults continue pursuing this goal? Even our churches follow after this belief: We must look attractive, be appealing.... Therefore, do we really have a right to speak against the pagan world? That would be a double standard.

Quote:

-----"If you don't mind guys seeing those parts of your body then there is something wrong with you."

Careful here! Do we really want to raise up a bunch of guilt-ridden men by implying that they are wicked sinners because they like the look of flesh? Would hating the look be better?

Suggestive exposure of flesh is common place. I just looked at a section of the newspaper, and it's all over.

During the days of the witch-hunts, attractive young girls were considered witches and put to death. The real problem was the clergy who found them a temptation, and never wished to admit they had a bad "eye". So they blamed the females.

It's time to stop blaming females for what may be very much a male problem. It takes males to reinforce the problem.

SOLUTIONS:

A good solution would be for men to wear foggy glasses. Jesus suggested removing the eye altogether if it causes one to sin. (Note: the eye, not the object ex, female was the cause of sin) In other words, we are all to take responsibility for our own tendencies to fall into temptation

When our eyes are on him, and we are dead (blind) to the attractions of this world, we are free to love – not the lustful way, but the right way – Christ's way.

This leads us to the question: How can we help our insecure, fearful fellow citizens find a sense of worth in something other than their body image? How can we help them know the love of the heavenly Father?

If we fail to do that, then we really can't say much when they chose faulty means to satisfy their unmet needs – whether that be bikinis or other means.

Diane

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/20 10:27

Quote:

-----5 Points Against (Inappropriate Dressing) edit

I have edited the title of this thread and have not decided to delete it but after several complaints I would ask that words like that in subject titles would be chosen more for less offense amongst the brethren.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/20 10:30

Quote:

-----You wrote that they "had such hostility to the preaching". Brother, I've listened to your audio files, I think that they counterreacted to your hostility...

This is very true that it is **easy** to get a reaction, I could out on the street and offend people very easily and provoke them, this is not the true persecution that the early church received, but rather received it under preaching the simple message of the cross, not naming sins in public and other scenarios of depraved lives. I have read the Acts of the Apostles 10 times in the last month and I just don't see it.

Re: 5 Points Against (Inappropriate Dressing) edit - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2006/6/20 10:33

if man or woman dress in a way that people look at that person in a lustful way, then that person is a tool of the devil, aren't they?

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/6/20 11:10

Quote:

-----I have read the Acts of the Apostles 10 times in the last month and I just don't see it.

We were at the park Sunday afternoon and one of the helpers was telling a man that he needed Jesus Christ or he was going to hell. She was doing her best to reach this young man and soon we all realized that the young man had almost no idea what she was talking about. He had never had any real experience with religion at all. He believed in a 'higher power' but that was it. He tried to commit suicide with a gun under his chin. The gun misfired. One of the guys asked him if he thought about God at that moment, he said, No. What did you think about? "I was speechless", he replied.

I am starting to feel like sometimes we try to push too hard with too much for the sake of time, when an explanation of what is being said, would be much more beneficial. Lowering the tone and allowing the Spirit to lead us to explain to the folks so that God can take those words and make it revelation to their mind and hearts. This takes 'time'. A heavy down-pour just runs off the hardened land. A bomb does speedily what a shovel could do more precisely if there were more 'time'.

I realized that folks need an explanation of what God's word says so that it is clear to them what He requires of them. Sound bite answers are limited in their effectiveness, because the people need a good understanding of what is being said. This takes some time. Maybe not hours, but it does take some time.

Look at Stephens messages in Acts. That message took like a whole chapter or more. It was concise, but it brought tremendous understanding. The people could not resist the wisdom. There is much more to this than just getting up with that message, but I think we can glean something from Stephens method.

God is constantly checking me on my delivery methods in teaching, preaching, and writing. I think this is as important as our content. It is what James calls the wisdom that comes down from above. I need to do this and God is leading me constantly to that end. I am not there, but I am trying to get there. It doesn't mean I'm not sincere or even hearing from the Lord or 'anointed' as it's said. It is a constant refining towards a more Christ like delivery of God's words. God's word in God's way.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/20 11:33

Quote:

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In 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul said it was the preaching of the cross that offended, not the super-colorful use of language to describe sins. One's ability to use adjectives never won anybody.

Re: 5 Points Against (Inappropriate Dressing) edit - posted by WACKHIMTONY (), on: 2006/6/20 12:35

If I was at that lake with my friends I'd definately be dropping the don't worry not all Christians are like that line. Sorry.

Preach the cross... - posted by ccchhhrrriisss (), on: 2006/6/20 12:50

Hello...

I heard someone once say, "*You don't have to teach sinners about tithing.*" Regardless of whether or not you believe in a concept of tithing, the point is quite clear -- we don't have to waste our time teaching precepts that will be rejected (or simply misunderstood) by unbelievers.

Please don't get me wrong -- I totally agree with the *Hell's Best Kept Secret* message by Ray Comfort. Sinners need to be aware that they are sinners. But is a message on "the dangers of indecent clothing" necessary to people that are quite satisfied with such clothing? Besides, the greatest sin in this world is the fact that the people of Earth have forgotten their Creator. We were created to fellowship with God. Free will was given so that we could choose Him despite all of the lusts and desires of this world. Yet now, people are completely satisfied without Him -- even to the point of questioning His very existence.

There was a preacher that came to our campus a couple of years ago. He began preaching at a highly trafficked place on campus (between the Student Union Building w/cafeteria and the library). Huge crowds gathered to listen. Unfortunately, the opportunity was (in my opinion) squandered. This man publicly called many of the young women in the crowd very offensive names (vulgar synonyms of 'prostitutes'). When he saw men with hair that he felt was in need of a trim, or he saw men wearing earrings, he labeled them as being the same as "homosexuals" and "sodomites." Sadly, he even publicly slurred some believers for such "sins" as wearing sunglasses or baseball caps. He constantly preached for several days against the evils of freemasonry, communism, roman catholicism, birth control pills, "modern" dress, as well as a few specific vulgar topics that I don't feel that I should type.

Occasionally, this man did say some very good things. But they were constantly mingled with his attempts to publicly offend the listeners. For instance, he shared his testimony (which was wonderful). But then, he would turn around and publicly mock sinners, half-hearted believers and true believers alike. He condemned me as a "heretic" for owning an NIV translation of the Bible. He condemned a friend for being a member of the University baseball team (on scholarship). Why did he do this? Perhaps he wanted to use this as a "gimmick" that would attract passerbys. Perhaps he did this for the "martyr" effect (he was openly ridiculed, mocked and threatened with arrest). Or perhaps he felt that what he was saying was needed in a public forum.

As a result of some things he said, this man was almost attacked by some of the listeners. He was asked to move about 25 yards to the designated "free speech" area (a much more visible location), but he refused. After being threatened with arrest by the University Police Department, he finally moved. He continued to preach for several days. Even though he condemned our Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship organization as a group of heretics (since he affiliated us with a belief in tongues), he thanked us in his newsletter for coming to his defense when he was threatened with arrest (and when an offended person threatened him with a brick). I asked him why he didn't ask for a permit or directions for the designated "free speech" areas on campus, and he said that he was simply another John Bunyan (refusing to cooperate with the desires of heathen governments).

I truly believe in street preaching. But sometimes, I call into question the methods of some street preachers. The opportunity to preach in a public arena is wonderful. But should we spend our time and words on doctrinal persuasion and offensive remarks? If a person wants to truly "offend," then why not simply preach the cross of Christ? It is completely offensive -- but it is also the power of God unto salvation!

May God raise up fellow preachers that are bold enough to preach to the highways and byways like brother Jesse. And may God fill each of them with the words to speak that will bring their listeners to Christ!

:)

Re: Preach the cross... - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/6/20 13:39

Another interesting subject....

I'll shoot straight here with you all...

My mother in-law said just the other day if you go to a beach or beach water park the women leave nothing to imagine!

She's right!! Most of the women are just plain naked! SODOM!!

I do like what Jesse said earlier that its just fancy underwear....I like what he said because I have preached it from my pulpit in church. We need to call it what it is!! Like Ravenhill said we use nicer words to cover it up...

The problem isnt with the sinners.... its with those who call themselves christian. Ravenhill said in his interview "you can't preach holiness these days, you cant preach modesty".

Now preaching to sinners on the street about bikinis is for me creating a bunch of "DONT'S". Get them saved and then discipline them! Teach them modesty.

"All is vanity" I wish preachers would preach it from the pulpits! We need to call it what it is!

There, I said my peace

;-) ;~)

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2006/6/20 15:15

I think the main point is that in street preaching we have to remember who we are preaching to. This is what I mean, Jesus had hard rebukes for the religious community of His time, The Jews. Occasionally He happened across a gentile and there were several ways He handled those situations, remember though that those gentiles sought the Lord out. Paul on the other hand reasoned with the Greeks as well as the unbelievers with persuasive arguments, much like a lawyer does in court cases before a jury. Jesus came to judge the worldbut how did He judge? He healed the lame, cast out demons, opened blind eyes, proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord, presented the gospel. Probably had about 6 hours of prayer to one sermon, and then it was time to minister to the needs of the hearers. Don't become a carbon copy of Ray Comfort. And at all times learn to show your genuine love and concern for those you preach to, as if they were your very own children.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/20 15:30

Brother Robert what you wrote is worthy of a re-read. It is truly some wisdom gained by your years of walking with Christ, that's not to say we can't preach to people straight and hard at times but truly what you said needs to be practiced more by all of us and I am sure we would see more fruit.

Quote:
-----We were at the park Sunday afternoon and one of the helpers was telling a man that he needed Jesus Christ or he was going to hell. She was doing her best to reach this young man and soon we all realized that the young man had almost no idea what she was talking about. He had never had any real experience with religion at all. He believed in a 'higher power' but that was it. He tried to commit suicide with a gun under his chin. The gun misfired. One of the guys asked him if he thought about God at that moment, he said, No. What did you think about? "I was speechless", he replied.

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Brent wrote:

Quote:
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The problem isn't with the sinners.... it's with those who call themselves Christian. Ravenhill said in his interview "you can't preach holiness these days, you can't preach modesty".

Brother I agree this needs to be preached **to Christians** but why are we trying to preach it to heathen? they don't know any better it's just a fruit of their depravity. All your quotes and what Ravenhill is saying is towards the church! for the church not to act like the world. We need to preach CHRIST to people, to present Him Crucified, there is no way for people to realize the way they are living is wrong until they see the Cross and what Jesus did for them. Again show me anywhere where people's particular sin is pushed in their face boldly! that is not how the apostles or Christ Himself preached. But that does not mean they did not have earnestness. But a strange thing I have seen under the sun, preaching on hell without tears, preaching judgement on sin, and the sickness of sin without tears.

"For **many walk**, of whom I have told you often, and no tell you even WEEPING, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."
-Philippians 3:18-19

Re:, on: 2006/6/20 16:20

One doesn't need tears if cheap grace is the message. i.e., confess His name and you are ok for heaven.

:-)

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/20 16:40

I agree with what you just said but just to clarify I am talking about in my prior post, tears in the preachers eyes and a brokenness of spirit in the preaching.

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/6/20 17:19

Brent wrote:

Quote:
-----Now preaching to sinners on the street about bikinis is for me creating a bunch of "DONT'S". Get them saved and then disciple them! Teach them modesty.

Brother Greg...maybe you missed this in my post? I do agree with you 100%!!

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/6/20 17:44

This deserves to be re-read a couple of dozens of times. Very well said Greg.

Quote:
-----Brother I agree this needs to be preached to Christians but why are we trying to preach it to heathen? they don't know any better it's just a fruit of their depravity. All your quotes and what Ravenhill is saying is towards the church! for the church not to act like the world. We need to preach CHRIST to people, to present Him Crucified, there is no way for people to realize the way they are living is wrong until they see the Cross and what Jesus did for them. Again show me anywhere where people's particular sin is pushed in their face boldly! that is not how the apostles or Christ Himself preached. But that does not mean they did not have earnestness. But a strange thing I have seen under the sun, preaching on hell without tears, preaching judgement on sin, and the sickness of sin without tears.

If you are not weeping and wailing over the sins of the people and the depravity and wickedness of the times, in my opinion you have no right to preach against them. How many hours have you spent in your prayer closet weeping over the conditions of these poor girls who in their lack of self worth have unwittingly become co-workers of Satan? The compassion and love of the Holy Spirit and the same compassion Jesus had when he wept over Jerusalem should come through unmistakably in your voice as you preach, even when preaching against sin, judgement, hell, or wrath.

Although we should be ready to preach at any moment, we should also shut ourselves up with the Lord and seek after Him as to what He wants us to say and the word He wants spoken. I would seriously wonder if the Lord told me to go to the beach and preach against bikini's - here are five points. I would wonder if it was the Lord I was listening to or someone else.

I am not against hard preaching, preaching judgment and wrath, railing against sin and hell fire preaching, in fact, I have and will continue to preach that way when instructed to by the Lord, but only when clearly instructed to by the Lord after hours of prayers and tears and weeping and wailing.

Brother Robert wrote a post a couple of weeks back about purity in preaching and keeping our tongues free from the fires of hell. I think it would do us all well to give that post another read.

Re:, on: 2006/6/20 18:49

I'm really with you in all that you are saying. One must be to bridge that gap; there must be revelation. Crock tears won't cut it.

:-)

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/20 21:50

Quote:

-----Crock tears won't cut it.

Break us Lord, Break us Lord, Break us Lord! We want apostolic reality, early church success, may your Kingdom advance!

Re: Just a thought - posted by teamtoucan (), on: 2006/6/20 21:50

Hi this is Brian's wife Tracey,

I was nursing and we (along with many health professionals) say "treat the cause not just the symptoms".

Here we have symptoms - women dressing inappropriately. My thoughts were that maybe we need to address the underlying need for a saviour. He is the one who leads us into all truth regarding even modesty.

Just a quick thought...

BTW 10 out of 10 for your bravery (the person who started this thread) in going out to the streets and preaching! I admire that you self sacrifice in that way. May God keep leading us and growing us to see exactly what words he wants us to be preaching.

Every blessing,
Tracey =)

Re:, on: 2006/6/20 22:54

I would like to say that I agree the 5 point sermon really isn't the best. There really was no elaboration on the points. In the preaching all I did was make the points, it lasted a few seconds, and then I went on preaching.

Rather than using crude words I tried to use words I thought would not be crude. My apologies if some of you find the words I have used to be crude. I admit I was abit surprised to hear some found the word "bikini" to be out of line.

From now on I will preach the modified version of the sermon. It's one point, "Too much flesh".

Quote:
-----if man or woman dress in a way that people look at that person in a lustful way, then that person is a tool of the devil , arent they?

Yes they are a tool of the devil. A women who dresses in a way to intentionally stir up lust is a child of the devil, who is out doing her fathers bussiness. Until she understands she is a child of the devil, she won't understand being adopted into the family of God.

We must publicly condemn all sin. Don't let the world get in you. I was absolutely appauled to find that there were some here on these forums justifying bikinis! For get about preaching holiness, you can't even preach modesty!! A bikini is as immodest as you can get. If you believe in bikinis, you do not believe in modesty. You cannot get any more immodest than a bikini. God help us. What a pitiful standard of morality we have today!

I still can't believe people on these boards condemn the preaching and justify bikinis!!!

I would say the only time a bikini is acceptable is when it's a wife wears one in the pool alone with her husband. But if they have children in the pool or in eye view of the pool, God forbid she wears a bikini. Children should not see that much flesh of their mother. There are parts of a women which should only be viewed by the husband.

This is a good point, "treat the cause not just the symptoms".

In my sermon, I simply pointed out the symptom and then went for the cause. I said, "if you are wearing a bikini out here today there is something wrong with you. If you don't mind men seeing those parts of your body there is something terribly, terribly wrong with you. You have a filthy heart and you need Jesus to clean you up. Jesus Christ can give you a new heart."

Notice the medical language, "there is something wrong with you" and how is that determined? By the symptom. Bikinis, beers, violence, pornography, secular music that glorifies sin, violent video games, blasphemy, lying, stealing, etc etc are all but symptoms of a sinful, unregenerate heart. And Jesus is the answer.

So again, while I should have picked my words more wisely for the sermon, and I apologies for that, bikinis are absolutely sinful and must be preached against just as any other sin. A preacher who does not preach against sin is not a preacher of the bible at all.

While I agree that a preacher can fall into error by preaching too little of Christ, I completely disagree that a preacher can preach too much against sin. Until a person understands their sin, they can never understand the cross.

God bless us all as we seek to preach the gospel to sinners.

Re: - posted by JeffreyOlver, on: 2006/6/20 23:03

One thing "y'all" should keep in mind. We were at this lake in Mineola, Texas - THE BIBLE BELT.

The MAJORITY (and I do not exaggerate) of this crowd were 'professing' Christians.

The practically naked girl that stole Jesse's Bible and threw it in the Lake did so with the preamble; "I like God's word. I don't like what you're doing to it." She then demonstrated just how much she hated God's word.

There were "Christian" parents on this beach saying they did not want their children to hear about drunkenness and fornication - they say this standing in the midst of a half-naked crowd, with plenty drinking alcohol.

While I do indeed understand what some of you folks are saying that it may be putting the cart in front of the horse to instruct sinners about modesty...Your point is very well taken. But gracious, the way some of you are talking I'd expect the next thing to be reprimanded would be the telling to drunkards to be sober!

You absolutely cannot deny that the problem in America is not legalism - IT'S LAWLESSNESS.

One young woman had been at the beach was certainly convicted about her wearing of a bikini. She came over, now wearing a t-shirt and a towel around her waist, asked me some questions about what we were doing and then said that she didn't want anyone looking at her body anymore. And she was shocked at the reaction of the people.

No matter where you go to truly shine as a light in a dark place, the darkness will try to stamp or filter you out. Unless, of course, you make the light a little less harsh, by adding the filter of compromise. Or if you try to color a different way to make it more pleasing to the (spiritual) eye.

Browse through the sermons by Leonard Ravenhill. Listen carefully at his aside comments and prayers...many times you hear the burden he has for this area where Jesse and I currently live, East Texas.

Bible belt? It's a belt of bondage! And it's wrapped around the necks of many, tightening and tightening with each justification for sin and compromise!

Forget the whole "teaching a sinner modesty" thing that was brought up...

...you preach about purity the lascivious will cry out against you! You preach about sobriety, the drunkards will rail at you! You preach about blasphemy, you can expect to be verbally assaulted! You preach about idolatry and sure enough someone will jump and prance around lifting up their praises to Satan. You preach about Jesus Christ being THE way, THE truth and THE life, and the moral relativists would like to lynch you!

If we can't preach about sin and freedom from sin through Christ, what will we preach??? Oh, what will we?

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/20 23:06

Quote:
-----In my sermon, I simply pointed out the symptom and then went for the cause. I said, "if you are wearing a bikini out here today there is something wrong with you. If you don't mind men seeing those parts of your body there is something terribly, terribly wrong with you. You have a filthy heart and you need Jesus to clean you up. Jesus Christ can give you a new heart."

I would just like you to give scripture to justify this message to the be in agreement with the "apostolic" message in the bible. I did not find Jesus preaching against the prostitutes and whoremongers about their lewd deeds and even more against the way they brazenly dressed to allure men. The Apostles were in cities like Corinth which one big "giant cesspool of sin." But I am sure they preached the message of Christ, the Cross of Christ and the Resurrection of Christ from the dead.

To tell people that there is something wrong with them because they were clothes that aren't modest is not correct. There is something wrong with them because they love darkness more than light, they wallow in mud because they know no better, they are pigs! We need to address their overall condition as "rebellion" to God and not "glorifying" or wanting to "worship" God, who is their "creator". These are all important key words to understand the root selfish, deprived, prideful nature of men that don't desire to come to God.

But we must proclaim Christ as glorious, as King, as **lovely**! He is the pearl of great price!

At times there is biblical warrant to name sins and preach against them to unbelievers but the main aim of the axe is to hit the root of the tree which is not petty sins but rather the root of their rebellion and unwillingness to come to God. And perhaps at times it is a sin that mainly holds a person back but I am sure wearing un-modest clothing is not that sin for **many** people.

On the other side of things preaching these things to Christians is a whole other angle and yes it is good to preach modesty to Christians and that is part of the sanctification of believers. I do also would point out the fact of not making a believer stumble, there is progressive revelation given by God, and if I dare say it also progression sanctification.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/20 23:25

Quote:

-----You absolutely cannot deny that the problem in America is not legalism - IT'S LAWLESSNESS.

Yes, but what is the root of lawlessness? who are they being lawless to? God. They don't love God or desire to come to Him. We must proclaim what God did for people, John 3:16-17 that Christ came not to condemn the world but to save it. That speaks to me that the weight of preaching of the gospel **must** be on the love, grace, cross of Christ for the people's salvation.

Surely yes they will perish and yes because of sin, and yes that's because of their lawlessness and disobeying the commandments of God. But we have to preach to the sinners: come to Christ, Flee to Christ, flee your sin. But the epitome must be Christ! He must be paramount, in preaching we must make Christ stand out.

I am not trying to say what you good brothers are doing is wrong but **balance** is always what we should strive for "biblical balance" that is, it is too easy to go off with one or two truths and get out of the will of God in a certain situation. Perhaps it was ordained of God that you brothers preached on the beach but setting a precedent on these things is hard. I am just personally striving to be as biblically accurate desiring to walk out in my life the acts of the apostles.

On a sidenote me and brother Ricki will be going to open air preach, hand out tracts, and pray for people on the streets of Toronto this weekend. There is a gay pride festival (one of the largest in the world) happening in Toronto with the slogan: FEARLESS. It is very saddening to my heart but I feel the Spirit of God in my jealousy to proclaim the fear of God and the awful majesty of God to people, setting forth that this God emptied Himself to the cross to die for our sins so that we might be the beloved of God. I appreciate prayers for this weekend.

Re:, on: 2006/6/20 23:55

Quote:

-----Look at Stephens messages in Acts. That message took like a whole chapter or more. It was concise, but it brought tremendous understanding. The people could not resist the wisdom. There is much more to this than just getting up with that message, but I think we can glean something from Stephens method.

"**You** stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **you** do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do **you**." **Ac 7:51**

If you are going to preach as Stephen did, **directly** to sinners about **their specific** sins, be prepared to be stoned.

Or if we preach directly and specifically as Peter did in the book of Acts: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom **you** have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard **this**, they were **pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" **Ac 2:36-37**

Sure we would all like to see 3,000 saved as Peter did on the day of Pentecost. But are we willing to publicly call people

out on their sin as Peter did on the day of Pentecost? When preachers have their own pentecost and get full of the Spirit of God they will.

"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **whom you crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole." **Ac 4:10**

Dare any of us be as direct and pointy as James and say to sinners, "cleanse your hands **you sinners**"? **Jas 4:8**

Or dare any of us be as strong as John and preach so strong against sin as to say, "He that committeth sin is of the devil" **1Jo 3:8**

We need to preach as they did in the book of Acts. And what do we see in the book of Acts? Stephen, Peter, Paul all publicly pointing out peoples **specific** sins and called them to repent.

It was not only in the book of Acts, but also in the gospels. John the Baptist for example: "For John had said unto Herod, It is not **lawful** for **thee** to have thy brother's wife." **Mr 6:18.**

And what happened to John? Did Herod get saved? Did John get invited to the palace to have tea with his new friend? No, he was hated and beheaded. That's bible.

What is the message Jesus always intended us to bring to the world? "And that **repentance and remission** of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." **Lu 24:47.**

REPENTANCE and REMISSION. Not only remission as I fear some of these boards are promoting. But that you must turn and live, and that means turning even from the sin of immodesty. Repentance alone should not be preached. Remission alone should not be preached. It's not one or the other but both. That is the balance. Repentance and remission of sins must be preached to all nations, not only America, but all.

And it was that message that Paul brought, "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance** toward God, and **faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ." **Ac 20:21**

We need to warn sinners as Paul did, "Him we preach, **warning** every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." **Col 1:28**

Judgment was a part of Paul's gospel, "In the day when God shall **judge** the secrets of men by Jesus Christ **according to my gospel.**" **Ro 2:16.**

Jesus must be preached not only as Savior, as I fear some of these boards are promoting, but also as judge!!! Or you are not preaching the same gospel Paul preached.

I fear many preachers are out of tune with the Spirit of God today. What does the Holy Spirit want to do? "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." **Joh 16:8.** And here you see Paul working hand in hand with the Spirit, "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." **Ac 24:25.**

And again under the guidance of Spirit what did Paul do in the book of Acts? "Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore **disputed** he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him." **Acts 17:16-17.**

When was the last time your "spirit was stirred" in you to "dispute" with sinners every day??

What else did Paul do under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Did he hug sorcerers and tell him how deeply he loved him? Is that what we see in the book of Acts? "Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" **Acts 13:9-10.**

If your gospel message only contains "God loves you. God loves you." I would dare to say that you are hindering the Spirit of God. **If** you are not talking about sin and about judgment, along with the cross of Christ, you are no preacher of the

gospel at all.

I have been reading, "An Alarm to Unconverted Sinners" by Joseph Alliene. Though I feel these threads would crucify Alliene if he were here today, we need to get back to the pure message of the bible, the message Joseph Alliene boldly declared to his generation.

I have listed a great deal of scriptures, **mostly from the book of Acts**, but now here are two quote from Ravenhill, a man many on these threads respect.

“Finney never made an altar call within the first twenty eight nights of preaching. Most of our evangelists don’t have twenty eight sermons. Twenty eight nights in a row and he never made an altar call. He didn’t preach the love of God. He didn’t say “you’re a sinner, God loves you.” He said “God is angry with the wicked every day” (Ps 7:11) which the Word of God says. He didn’t preach grace, he preached Law. He didn’t preach love, he preached judgment. He didn’t preach heaven, he preached hell. He didn’t say “you’re a wonderful person” he said “you’re a rebel”. But he got results. 64% of D. L. Moody’s converts backslid, 72% of the converts Finney got stood because he knew how to attack the human will, not just the emotions.” **Leonard Ravenhill**

“I don’t believe there is a man on the whole TV that preaches salvation. They preach forgiveness. Forgiveness is not salvation. They point out “there’s a man in bed with some other man’s wife in a Motel”. “Oh you know the Lord loves you just as you are.” Well then why get changed? Commit adultery as much as you like. He still loves you. Be a cheat, be a liar, be a thief, and be a failure. He still loves you. But there’s a scripture. Isn’t it the Psalms 7...where it says “God is angry with the wicked every day.” I heard somebody quote today “God loves you but hates your sin” that’s bunk. God hates you for committing the sin. Is God going to take your sins and judge them at the Judgment and leave you alone?” **Leonard Ravenhill**

As the Pharisees it seems we build sepulture for these men like Alliene, Finney, Ravenhill now that they are dead. But would we accept them if they were here today?

Re: - posted by mileslewis (), on: 2006/6/21 1:37

Now that is a good word brother Jesse. Great report! Keep preaching the pure gospel as I know you do.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/6/21 1:46

This is a copy of a post I made on Jesse site regarding the same issue.

(<http://openairoutreach.proboards52.com/index.cgi?board=openairpreaching&action=display&thread=1150768102>) <http://openairoutreach.proboards52.com/index.cgi?board=openairpreaching&action=display&thread=1150768102>

Quote:
-----Now I personally am in total agreement with preaching things like a 5 point message against bikini's. However, I am wondering if all of that would fall under the "Pure Message" category. Just wondering.

It absolutely does not fall under the "Pure Message" category. In fact, it is unbiblical and harmful to Christ and the furtherance of the Gospel. Jesse I truly feel you need to repent and stop such preaching. I feel that there is a strong argument that it would better for Jesse to not preach at all and seek after the Lord and the Holy Spirit instead of preaching in such a manner. I feel this type of preaching is doing more harm than good and is an embarrassment to legitimate open-air preachers both past and present. It is like going to a rock concert and preaching against rock music.

Of course we preach against sin and preach the full council of God, but there is a way to do it and ways not to do it. There are those who walk around homosexual parades wearing sandwich boards that say “G- God A- Abhors Y- You” as an acronym for GAY or “Homo Sex Makes God Want To Vomit” Here is a link to some actual street preaching banners for sale. This is not a joke. Not all of the banners are bad, but many are clearly WRONG!!! And this type of preaching against sin is harmful and I believe a reproach to Jesus.

(<http://www.officialstreetpreachers.com/banner/BANNER501.htm>) <http://www.officialstreetpreachers.com/banner/BANNER501.htm>

ER501.htm

Now I am certainly not advocating a "God loves you in your sins" modern Gospel message at all. My text for Saturday was "how shall you escape if you neglect so great salvation" I preached a 20-minute open-air discourse on hell, wrath, vengeance and eternal torture and punishment for all who don't repent turning from their sins and those who neglect so great salvation. There were many openly weeping and in tears. Then I followed with 10-15 minutes of what is "so great salvation" and what it means to neglect it. I am not against such preaching when directed by the Holy Spirit and preached out of a spirit of compassion and loved birthed in fasting, prayer, weeping, travail and tears. But to go to a beach and preach against bikinis and list those five points or even to just say "too much flesh" is not the preaching of Christ and Christ crucified we find in the Books of the New Testament. Now one could find a Scripture here or there and pull it out to try to justify one's actions and say "see this type of preaching is Biblical" but to even suggest Jesus or Peter or Paul going down to the beach and preaching 5 points against bikinis is unthinkable!!! Think Ravenhill would have went down to the beach and preached 5 points against bikinis - think again.

I was hoping that the thread on "purity in preaching" had caused Jesse and others to repent as it had appeared by their posts, but now it sadly seems that this was not the case.

(<http://openairoutreach.proboards52.com/index.cgi?boardsayitall&actiondisplay&thread1149900998&page1>) <http://openairoutreach.proboards52.com/index.cgi?board=sayitall&action=display&thread=1149900998&page=1>

If my words seem harsh, they are not to ridicule or condemn, but rather my harsh words are a continued attempt to wake up brothers to the errors of their ways and bring them to repentance. I respect and agree with much of what Jesse has to say, but this type of preaching is wrong, not lead by the Holy Spirit, shameful to Jesus and MUST stop. I am not an expert on street preaching or claim to be perfect in my words, but I know what the Lord has dealt with me about and I can feel His grief when I read and watch things like this happening.

Quote:
-----I have had a sincere brother in the Lord tell me that he does not agree with the 5 point sermon. He says he can't image the Apostles preaching something like that. I never thought too much of it because I have heard far worse. But I look for truth in every criticism. As Pastor Britt Williams warns, open air preachers are criticized so much that they can become hardened to all criticism, even good criticism.

I hope this true and that you will take these words to heart for these matters have grieved my heart deeply. We MUST return to purity in our preaching in these very crucial and wicked days. We must preach directed by and with the unction of the Holy Spirit endued with power from on high. Please seek the Lord in prayer on these issues and know that you will be in my prayers.

(http://gospeltruth.net/1944power_from_on_high/power.htm) http://gospeltruth.net/1944power_from_on_high/power.htm

In the love of Christ,
Patrick

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 2:10

Quote:
-----If you are going to preach as Stephen did, directly to sinners about their specific sins, be prepared to be stoned.

That is an incorrect understanding of the passage he wasn't pointing out the "specific sins" of anyone, he was clearly showing the promises in the Old Testament pointing towards a coming Messiah, he tells them that they crucified this Messiah "the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murders." This is not gospel preaching but telling them of their consequence of already betraying and dis-owning Jesus Christ. They could still surely repent from this wickedness that they accomplished but there was no **good news** (Gospel) preached here.

There was a call to repent to Israel who has rejected Jesus Christ. Not a call to believe for they could not receive the good news until they realized their sin against Christ Himself as the promised Messiah.

This is a special case and really I don't think can be used as a strong prove text on how to preach to people as in preaching the gospel. Should we then all go out and accuse people of killing Jesus and try and insue people to cause us bodily harm?

Quote:

-----Ac 2:36-37, Ac 4:10

These verses again is a special case towards those that partook of the actual killing of Christ and rejection of Him. I am not saying that there is not any truth in the fact that in some ways we have partook of that also but I do believe that there is a difference and that is why there is a difference in the preaching of the gospel later on in Acts towards those that wer e not in Jersalum that did and approved of this crucifying of Christ.

Quote:

-----Dare any of us be as direct and pointy as James and say to sinners, "cleanse your hands you sinners"? Jas 4:8

Or dare any of us be as strong as John and preach so strong against sin as to say, "He that committeth sin is of the devil" 1Jo 3:8

Though in truth as you are stating they speak to the state of those that are lost without Christ. It is found in messages to the church and paticularly is speaking to the "brethren" those that are saved as a warning and exhoration to keep from al l form of sin and evil. To be seperate and holy as God is Holy. I am not saying it does not apply at all in the other circum stance I mentioned first but we have to remember context with these things. Personally you would be hard pressed to fin d early church fathers preaching to people saying they are of the devil. They are spiritually diserned they have no idea! Not that we cannot mention it to people but is that our first and main aim to tell them they are deluded by the prince of th e power of the air, or to point them to Christ the author of life, without him there is no life.

Quote:

-----We need to preach as they did in the book of Acts. And what do we see in the book of Acts? Stephen, Peter, Paul all publicly pointi ng out peoples specific sins and called them to repent.

I really encourage you to read onto the next 10 chapters and see if there is any change in preaching style and what can be gleamed from it. I believe you will find more of a balance then. I am not trying to be frank with my comments and I am saying this with a heart to see people seek out the whole counsel of God, and by no means do I claim to know everythin g. These are my opinions and definetly I am missing many spaces in responses that need to be filled in. I am not blanket judging you at all Jesse, I think this is a healthy forum to get down to the truth, which is the word of God! comparing spirit ual with spiritual. :-)

Quote:

-----And what happened to John? Did Herod get saved? Did John get invited to the palace to have tea with his new friend? No, he was hated and beheaded. That's bible.

Yes it is bible! there is times to name out sins and call people out, not to condemn them for that is only God's work but w hen called of Him there surely can be a naming of sin, to expose darkness with light. But if that were a principle and was to be put to action all the time then we would find ourselves with lack of time to sufficiently call out all the greivous sins of those even in leadership in our countries.

So obviously this is something that is not done often or as a principle but is God through His saints exposing darkness in certain places as a means of glorifying God. If they are saved or not, if it was God that called you to expose the darknes s then it glorifies Him.

Quote:

-----turning even from the sin of immodesty

Those that are depraved in their sins have **not the power at all** to deliver themselves or repent of the sins themselves. They can have a change of mind towards God and desire God but without God being first I find it hard to imagine sinner s cleaning themselves up before the cross. Perhaps this could be something we could look into deeper in another thread with deeper looks into certain scriptures.

Quote:

-----repentance toward God

I assume you could propose that the meaning of this would mean also "away from sin" and surely that is what happens when people come to God to be cleansed of their sin and delivered from their bondage. But the "repentance" is not that thing that delivers? (am I right or wrong there?)

I am not fully disagreeing with you Jesse and you have posted alot of truth obviously, lets continue further with this by the patience of God and allow God to speak to us all about these things.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 2:19

Quote:

-----Of course we preach against sin and preach the full council of God, but there is a way to do it and ways not to do it. There are those who walk around homosexual parades wearing sandwich boards that say "G- God A- Abhors Y- You" as an acronym for GAY or "Homo Sex Makes God Want To Vomit" Here is a link to some actual street preaching banners for sale. This is not a joke. Not all of the banners are bad, but many are clearly WRONG!!! And this type preaching against sin is harmful and I believe a reproach to Jesus.

I do think that this really is wrong also. The reason why there is a rampant sodomite invasion upon the world is because the church is sleeping, the church is lacking unity (which is the love Christ prayed for us in John 17). I find most people that go out and hold up signs like this really lack love to other brethren. Those in sodomy really do know its wrong but what are their alternatives? going to a hypocrite church? It's by God's grace that I am saved, I believed the church to be full of hypocrites and they were all fake. I could see that some seemed to be genuine good people but the mass of them seemed to me to be fakers! and sadly that's what alot of these people that are finding community and acceptance in the homosexual movement. It is very sad and disturbing we need to pray church.

Re: Brother Jesse, on: 2006/6/21 2:28

I've been sitting here for quite a while, (again) and praying and meditating about what you wrote, and what you BELIEVE is the correct way to convey the message of "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" to the lost, and I do say lost, I don't say "sinners", because you are a sinner, as I am, even lower than you I dare to say...

But please don't fall into the trap of the professional religionist, that pharisee, who thanked God that he was not as low and sin-filled as the publican at the other end of the pew, while that publican just beat his breast and begged God to save a sinner like me....no pretense, no religious pride, just an overweening desire for God to save him, and love him.

Why don't you do this, find the nearest AIDS hospice, filled with dying gay males, and offer to pray with them, hold their hands, and most importantly LISTEN to them, and when they have disgorged all their fears, and confusion over a life gone wrong and in rebellion to a God who STILL loves them, then in that pause, tell them, with the love only the Holy Spirit can fill you with that there is a Saviour who can wash away all their sins in His Blood shed on Calvary, and welcome them back as beloved prodigals....only if....only if, they will ask Him in.

or go to a battered women and childrens shelter, and offer to pray with them and LISTEN to countless stories of lives gone wrong, ill-founded decisions based on lust and carnality and all sorts of Christless foolishness, and then face them with this fact....a beautiful fact, that if they accept that Jesus Christ is the Brother, the Father, the Teacher, Husband they have been seeking all their lives, then He will lift them from the mire and mud and clean with His precious Blood and teach them in His Holy Spirit.

That's not being soft on sin, that's being heavy on Jesus, the Lamb of God, offered for the life of the WORLD.

Let me be frank with you, in the love of the Lord, I think, from your public witness on this forum, that you are going down a wrong path, and that is the path of the pharisee, the professional religionist with a hard heart, pride soaked at its own righteousness and holiness, excoriating and haranguing the lost.

That is not planting a seed, but grinding it underneath the millstone of religion.

A witness is the man who tells how Christ changed his life, tells how Christ loves him.

Christ's love is irrevocable, it is final, it is real, show the lost that love in your own life, and they will desire THAT more than anything.....THEN you will have got hold of the right end of the stick.

May God bless you, and forgive me if my harsh words offended you.

bartle

Re: Knowing the REAL problem leads the the right solution - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/6/21 5:23

As you know from my earlier post, I did not accept the answer given to the original question: "What's wrong with bikinis?" I felt that the suggestions given cannot lead us to workable or godly solutions.

Actually, insufficient beach covering is wrong because of the danger of sun exposure -predisposing the skin to cancer. Another problem has more to do with hanging out on the beach than the attire: It is simply not the best social environment for our youth. It is a waste of precious time. If our youth really value themselves they will spend their time preparing themselves for their future, developing skills, talents, and healthy relationships, and learn from older men and women.

Now, I would like to address the problem of temptation to men (which I suspect is the real concern here):

I once suggested to a young lady that her attire might attract men to her body. She said, "Good, that's the way it should be." I then suggested that it might make her look available, and she said, "Of course not! Guys know that I am not like that. I make it clear." So, you see, as I pointed out earlier, we're dealing with much more than meets the surface.

Yesterday I was visiting a friend and her 80 yo father. At one point I could tell in my spirit and by in his eyes that he started to have lustful thoughts towards me. Surely it was not because my arms were showing. The first thing I had to do was resolve that the problem was not me, but him. Really it was a spiritual problem. So I started talking about God. That redirected his mind to some powerful hidden emotions - his bitterness towards the church and God. Actually, he was an atheist. Clearly it was his soul that needed changing, not my attire or behavior. I didn't need to flee. It was my God-given responsibility, out of love, to point him God-ward. In the end, he respected me for it.

Now, as I pointed out earlier, you will never get rid of the problem of fleshly exposure. It was around in Bible days. In the Greek empire nude status were common in the marketplace.

If a solution to any problem requires something that one has no control over, then one is looking in the wrong place. In other words, if the solution to male lust lies with choices made by females in our society, then, alas, there is no hope for many of our young men.

As I pointed out earlier, you cannot make females the cause or solution of a male problem. The development of mature men does not lie in the females (alone). He must take responsibility and personal accountability for his life. That is biblical. If the best he can come up with is to impose a dress code on the females, then he has failed to change anything within himself. He has failed to move himself, or his fellow men God-ward. He has failed to grow in love.

Quote:
-----How many hours have you spent in your prayer closet weeping over the conditions of these poor girls who in their lack of self worth have unwittingly become co-workers of Satan?

Amen brother! This is love. You are looking beyond outer appearance and seeing the heart condition. As you keep looking you see a far greater sin problem than meets the eye. Ex the manipulative, greedy fashion industry, ungodly society v

alues etc.

An unmarried young man once told his mother that he was looking for the virtuous woman like in Prov. 31. She said, "You won't find her, but she will become one through the way you treat her."

So, as spiritual heads, leaders, as elders of church and society a big responsibility lies with our men. Our young ladies will behave (and dress) in response to how they are treated.

It is a spiritual issue, really.

What might the role of our elders be? How might they teach younger men?

Diane

Re: Be proactive Christians - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/6/21 5:26

Quote:
-----or go to a battered women and childrens shelter, and offer to pray with them and LISTEN to countless stories of lives gone wrong, ill-founded decisions based on lust and carnality and all sorts of Christless foolishness, and then face them with this fact....a beautiful fact, that if they accept that Jesus Christ is the Brother, the Father, the Teacher, Husband they have been seeking all their lives, then He will lift them from the mire and mud and clean with His precious Blood and teach them in His Holy Spirit.

Amen to your post, bartle. How can anyone know what Christ is like without seeing it and experience it in his people.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 6:16

Quote:

Until a person understands their sin, they can never understand the cross.

A person will never have a revelation of how horrible sin is unless they have a revelation of Christ. It is the cross the shows the horribleness of sin, not sin the horribleness of the cross.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 6:20

Quote:

You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." Ac 7:51
If you are going to preach as Stephen did, directly to sinners about their specific sins, be prepared to be stoned.

Notice though how little of Stephens preaching did this though. Most of his preaching was simply a rehashing of Hebrew history.

Re: to Jesse - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/6/21 9:24

Jesse, I admire your fiery and fearless perseverance, and your desire to see sin eradicated. And I encourage you to continue to preach against sin, as did the early apostles. You pointed out:

Quote:
-----"You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." Ac 7:51

If you are going to preach as Stephen did, directly to sinners about their specific sins, be prepared to be stoned.

What had Stephen been doing or saying prior to this event?

According to Acts 6 Stephen was a man full of God's grace and power. He was performing wonders and miraculous signs. Clearly his godly and Spirit-anointed life aroused their jealousy. He was accused because the religious establishment could not stand against his wisdom. He was accused of blasphemy against Moses. He was falsely accused of speaking against the temple and the law - all lies. His accusers were indeed stiffnecked.

What was the specific sin of Stephen's audience? It was a deliberate choice to reject the faith of their fathers, to reject Christ's mercy when he was right in their midst. It was a desire to reject what they already knew: their entire heritage, the miracles God performed on behalf of their nation. It was a deliberate choice to reject Christ's call to repent.

How many of those on our beaches or other places of worldliness have EVER heard of Christ's mercy, or seen his miracles? How many of them have ever witnessed even in another human being the love of Christ. How can they be classified as "stiffnecked" if they have never said "No" to God in the first place because they have never even heard of him or his requirements?

When Paul went into Athens, he dialogued with them. I suspect a lot of dialogue occurred. He preached the good news about Christ. Then, when some wanted to know more about his teachings, he used a statue to an unknown God to explain the real God.

Perhaps it would be good to go to the places where the "stiff necked" hang out - those who hold Bibles in their hands, and who know the contents, but deliberately refuse to believe its authenticity. Go to those who live by the letter of the law and not the Spirit - those who reject Christ and instead promote a form of godliness with dead religion. Go to those religious leaders who put unbearable burdens on their parishioners in the form of legalistic requirements, thus making them a worse child of hell. Go to those who trust in their salary, their popularity, or in their "horses and weapons" and insurance policies to protect them, yet sing and talk about their trust in God.

I find it interesting that even Nathan, when he approached King David about his sin, didn't start out by calling him a stiff necked accomplice of Satan or something. Instead he told a story about a lamb. And THAT is how David's conscience was awakened.

Jesse, What best awakens the consciences of your audience to the reality of God?

Diane

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2006/6/21 11:00

Diane,

I beg to differ with you on an important point:

Quote:
It's time to stop blaming females for what may be very much a male problem. It takes males to reinforce the problem.

Lady, females DO dress to attract male attention. I have seen it many times. I have seen very young girls dress very inappropriately.

ppropriately and act lewdly to attract male attention. Years later they were involved in fornication, then married, divorced and remarriedÂ.....

Diane, you are a female....are you not appalled when you see public displays of behaviors that should be confined to a married couple in the privacy of their own lives? Where is the shame? People have discarded shame as being an unhealthy emotion, hurts ones self-esteem! Appears to me too many have too much self-esteem!

Today many people are appalled with the breakup of marriages. It all begins when the child is young, with modesty being taught and lived; having a healthy respect for God's wonderful creation and working in line with Biblical directives to preserve it. Violating these rules will bring result in disastrous consequences.

Diane, it is not only the young who are dressing immodestly and appearing in public, it is the mothers and grandmothers as well. I tell you it is very bad here in Mississippi. Last summer we visited in the north and I was surprised how little of it was there. Really! Jesse lives and preaches in Texas and I would suppose most who post on his thread have no clue how bad it is in the south! It is vexing! I perfectly understand his concern. Now whether he should have gone to the beach to preach, I do not know. All I know is that one has to be led by the Holy Spirit and do His bidding, anything else would be disobedience.

We live in the so-called Bible belt. Most of the people here are professing Christians. They will tell you they are and they believe lifestyle is irrelevant to their faith, that faith will NOT impact their lifestyle. Trust me, I have worked/counseled with these people for many years. What Jesse is preaching against goes far beyond bikini wearing. There is this mindset that is so deeply entrenched in the southern people I do not know what it will take to shock them out of it.

So you want to go swimming? You CAN dress modestly. Do a goggle check using 'modest swimwear' and see what you get. Are those swim suits mainstream? No. But living for God is not either. It is far better to live for Him and being mocked for it then it is to contribute to another's sin.

Somehow, I suspect too many on this forum love to see the exposure of female flesh. Too bad.

ginnyrose

EDIT: I thought Jesse was from TX..sorry I was wrong.

While Jesse went to the beach to preach and witnessed the nudity there, here in the south you see it on the streets, just haven't seen any females wear thongs but if people do not repent I would guess it won't be long until we do.

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 11:54

I do not have time to read the entire thread, so forgive me if this has been addressed already, but regarding the initial post I have to ask...

Was the motivation for your preaching at this lake to see souls saved, or pick a fight?

I'm all for confronting people with the truth, but in the way you did it it doesn't seem to me that much truth penetrated the hearts of your listeners. Only God knows for sure if a soul was touched, so I don't want to presume too much... but on the surface I have to question your motives and your methods.

Krispy

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 12:28

Quote:

-----A person will never have a revelation of how horrible sin is unless they have a revelation of Christ.

Isn't it interesting that it goes both ways, and both are valid.

Quote:

-----Jesse, I admire your fiery and fearless perseverance, and your desire to see sin eradicated.

Here is the problem, the world will never be eradicated of sin, that's why God calls us out of the world. Christ already died to "eradicate" sin we need to preach the Cross of Christ as the place to come to be free from sin.

Quote:

-----Lady, females DO dress to attract male attention. I have seen it many times. I have seen very young girls dress very inappropriately and act lewdly to attract male attention. Years later they were involved in fornication, then married, divorced and remarried.

Yes, Yes, Yes! that is very true it does go both ways also. Even the way that women can allure with their eyes and facial expressions can bring men into a place of compromise and by that time the women who is doing those things is compromising also already also. There are a few sermons on this site preached by a woman on modesty that would definitely be well worth searching out.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/6/21 13:18

Here is a short 4min teaching on modest dress given to young Christian women that I think most would find appropriate, somewhat harsh, but loving all the same.

(http://www.theseearchforbiblicaltruth.org/dont_give_in_to_the_pressure__michael_brown.mp3) Don't Give Into The Pressure

I have passed out probably close to a hundred of these burned to CD to women at Church. Modest of dress is a problem in our society and culture and sadly in many Christian Churches.

Patrick

Re: blame or accountability - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/6/21 13:37

Hi, Ginnyrose, I'm not sure where you differ. Perhaps it has to do with my use of the word, blame. Do you think I mean "accountable"? ie No blame=no accountability?

It is never right to blame our sins on anyone else – regardless of how wrong the OTHER persons are. We must all take accountability for OUR sins. That is what I meant. That is the journey to the cross. As long as we look outside our own responsibilities we will never move on in growth.

That only moves us away from Christ. We must trust our Lord to do that. We cannot count on a better environment and culture to make us better people. We cannot count on a better church. But we can count on God. "God's divine power has given us everything we need.... to live a godly life." From 2 Pet. 1

As long as our males blame females for their choices, they will never be free. As long as they believe that changing female attire is the solution, they will never have hope.

Notice how we have lots of info about female attire, and yet the Bible speaks much more to males about how to deal with themselves regarding suggestive females.

James One makes that clear, "When tempted no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' But each is tempted when by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed."

Quote:

-----I have seen very young girls dress very inappropriately

How about moms putting bikinis on tiny babies and cats? We live in a crazy world.

Quote:

-----Diane, it is not only the young who are dressing immodestly and appearing in public, it is the mothers and grandmothers as well.

Yesterday in a local high school a principal got fiercely chewed out by a mom. What was his "crime"? He had expelled her daughter for wearing a halter-top. This rule was set by the students themselves! He was merely enforcing what THEY chose. What a foolish mom!

Those in darkness are in bondage to this world, their sin nature, and the devil's schemes. But, ultimately, when they come to Christ they take accountability for their own choices, even though they acted in ignorance. And when they discover who they are in Christ, they will change their behaviors and choices.

Of course, I hate immodest attire of any kind. But I can't fix it, other than what I can control: what I wear myself. But I can't force anyone to wear what they don't want to unless they are young kids or senile, or unless I have been given authority -- like enforcing uniform regulations in a private school. (I wish!)

I feel that much of what we see in female attire reveals a general degeneration of the value of human life -- especially females. They are letting themselves be used. That has been going on for centuries in many cultures. We're no different.

Quote:

-----Appears to me too many have too much self-esteem!

Or rather lack of. When young ladies have more respect for themselves, and are willing to stand apart from the trends, I know they will stop selling themselves short to the latest trends and the eye of the male. That is what I long to see.

In the meantime... it does no good to keep chewing on the evils in this culture -- like attire. It's something you can't do anything about anyway; and it gives you no peace.

"Whatever is true... noble... right... pure... lovely... admirable... think on these things. And the PEACE of God will be with you." Phil. 4:9

Turn your eyes upon Jesus and the things of earth will become strangely dim.

And you will develop God's heart for lost sinners.

Diane

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 14:12

Quote:

-----There are a few sermons on this site preached by a woman on modesty that would definitely be well worth searching out.

Do you know specifically which sermons these might be? I'm always interested in hearing teaching on this topic.

BTW, interesting discussion...can't decide which to focus on, what to preach to the lost, or inappropriate dress. :-o

On the dress issue, it is definately both sides! It's sad to hear ladies use it as an it exuse that the responsibility totally lay s on the guy so they can wear what they want (note, I don't think I've heard that on here, but definately from some Christ ians).

So, how is everyone getting edified from this thread? :-)

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 14:32

Quote:

-----Do you know specifically which sermons these might be? I'm always interested in hearing teaching on this topic.

Roniya,

Thanks for asking her name is: **Dora Esh** you can download 6 sermons on modesty here:
<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid=467>

they are very good from what I first heard in them.

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 14:42

I want to restate that I agree, the 5 point sermon using words like "rear end" is not appropriate. I intentionally did not use words like "b*tt" because of the obvious crudeness. Christians should never say such things. But I should have given the terms I used more thought. I've traveled with a lot of open air preachers and have heard worse, so I didn't think much of i t. I've been asking the Lord to burn away any dross in my preaching with His holy fire so that only the pure gospel will re main.

Once again, I agree the 5 points were not a good sermon. From now on I have changed the sermon to be 2 points. Point 1. "Too much flesh" followed up with point 2, "Put some cloths on!"

More criticism that I've recieved lately is that I've become too entertaining and that I've become too humorous. In fact, on e sinner told me to leave preaching and start doing stand up.

The Lord has been convicting me of this lately. I don't want to entertain people or make them laugh. I don't want to get u p there and put on a show. I want to preach in a serious manner, and help cultivate an autmosphere of conviction of sin and the fear of God.

May the Lord help me in this. And I would appreciate all of your prayers for that as well.

I also forgot to add two scriptures to my earlier list.

Mr 6:12 "And they went out, and preached that men should repent."

When was the last time you saw churches forget their friendship dinners and committee meetings to go and tell their co mmunity to repent?

Not only do we see in the gospels men of God calling people to forsake their sin and come to Jesus, but Paul followed u p the work in the book of Acts.

Acts 17:30-31 - "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Be cause he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordaine d; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

Here again we see Paul telling men that God commands them to repent, that there is judgment to come, and that Jesus will be the judge. "Preach more about Jesus" is what we need. We need to preach more about Jesus the way Paul prea

ched about Jesus - as Judge!

Ro 2:16 - "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

If I am not out in the open air calling drunkards, adulterers, sodomites, fornicators, immodest women, lustful men to repent, you can be sure of one thing - I must be backsliden. I will call sinners to repent until my last breath because I know if they remain in their sin the bible says they will burn and burn and burn for eternity, with the smoke of their torment rising up forever.

And yes, I do believe a bikini is sufficient enough for God to send a woman to hell. There is nothing but sin in wearing a bikini in public. There is not love. A woman who wears a bikini in public does not love God because she does not obey His command for modesty, does not love others because she is causing others to stumble, and does not love herself because she is sending herself to hell. There is no love in wearing a bikini, only selfishness, and selfishness is the root of all sin.

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 14:54

Thanks, Greg! It's great to see resources like that on this website.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 15:26

Quote:

-----Once again, I agree the 5 points were not a good sermon. From now on I have changed the sermon to be 2 points. Point 1. "Too much flesh" followed up with point 2, "Put some cloths on!"

More criticism that I've recieved lately is that I've become too entertaining and that I've become too humorous. In fact, one sinner told me to leave preaching and start doing stand up.

The Lord has been convicting me of this lately. I don't want to entertain people or make them laugh. I don't want to get up there and put on a show. I want to preach in a serious manner, and help cultivate an atmosphere of conviction of sin and the fear of God.

May the Lord help me in this. And I would appreciate all of your prayers for that as well.

Brother Jesse, I have and will continue to pray for you, I have been priviledged to spend alot of time with you and I do have you in my heart to lift you up before the throne of God. One thing I would just ask in reference to what I quoted from you above: Do you find this type of preaching found in the bible, the scriptures you quoted come nowhere near to what you are preaching on. I just can't imagine the apostles walking into a city such as corinth and start preaching on people's unmodest dressing or other topics that seem way off the root of the problem. I am not sure if its just me that is having a bit of a hard time with this, it just seems that you are majoring on minors, NOT THAT THEY ARE NOT IMPORTANT but what is more needful or biblical that is what I esteem to be first in our preaching.

Quote:

-----And yes, I do believe a bikini is sufficient enough for God to send a woman to hell.

So if a Christian woman wears a bikini they are going to hell?

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 15:55

Quote:

-----Do you find this type of preaching found in the bible, the scriptures you quoted come nowhere near to what you are preaching on. I just can't imagine the apostles walking into a city such as corinth and start preaching on people's unmodest dressing or other topics that seem way off the root of the problem. I am not sure if its just me that is having a bit of a hard time with this, it just seems that you are majoring on minors, NOT THAT THEY ARE NOT IMPORTANT but what is more needful or biblical that is what I esteem to be first in our preaching.

What I see them doing in the bible is directly speaking to people about their specific sins. For Herod it was his adultery. For the religious leaders in Acts it was their murder. Whatever someones sin is, that is what we must preach against.

I am not trying to major on the minors at all. I do not go everywhere preaching against bikinis. I only do that at beaches. Why? Because that is the major sin of beaches. At a bar I preach against drunkenness. At a homosexual parade I preach against homosexuality. On a campus I preach mainly against drunkenness and fornication. Our messages must be relevant to the condition of the audience. And we must teach that the root of all sin is selfishness, but the root of holiness is love.

Charles Finney said "bring up the individuals particular sins. Talking in general terms against sin will produce no results. You must make a man feel that you mean him. A minister, who cannot make his hearers feel that he means them, can not expect to accomplish much. Some people are very careful to avoid mentioning the particular sins of which they know the individual to be guilty, for fear of hurting his feelings. This is wrong. If you know his history, bring up his particular sin. Kindly, but plainly; not to give offense, but to awaken conscience, and give full force to the truth."

This revivalist goes on to say "Preaching should be direct. The gospel should be preached to men, not about them. The Minister must address his hearers. He must preach to them about themselves, and not leave the impression that he is preaching to them about others. He will never do them any good, further than he succeeds in convincing each individual that he is the person in question."

Re: - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2006/6/21 16:32

I've been following this thread since it began. I am amused as well as disheartened. I have soooo much I would like to say but don't have the time and really it would probably be just trying to argue and debate anyway. I would like to make a few comments if I may:

Quote:

"If I am not out in the open air calling drunkards, adulterers, sodomites, fornicators, immodest women, lustful men to repent, you can be sure of one thing - I must be backslidden"

Does this mean that all Christians who are not out calling 'sinners' to repent in public - that we are backslidden?

Quote:

"I will call sinners to repent until my last breath because I know if they remain in their sin the bible says they will burn and burn and burn for eternity, with the smoke of their torment rising up forever"

Jesse, I have to wonder if you claim to have no sin- that you never sin? That you are also not a sinner? I understand you're wanting to rescue people from hell- of course, only God can truly do that. I do applaud your zeal and your boldness- but not at the risk of becoming a pharisee. Do you honestly think yourself as so much better than all those 'sinners' out there that you are preaching to? I would tread very cautiously here. I don't deserve God's salvation or rescue, neither do you. By God's grace He did reveal Himself to you and to me and to many on SI, but it is only by His grace- of nothing we can boast in ourselves.

I have to wonder if you have been reading so much of other men's writings that maybe you have missed out on time reading the Word for yourself. Funny thing, I just got David Wilkerson's newsletter today in the mail. The title: "Jesus: Friend of Sinners".

Quote:

"And yes, I do believe a bikini is sufficient enough for God to send a woman to hell."

Does this mean that someone wearing a 2 pc. is going to hell and someone wearing a 1 pc. is not? Where do you draw the line if you are making this kind of law? My whole family goes to the lake every summer for our short vacation. Our wh

ole family waterskis, tubes, kneeboards, etc... I have to wonder, is it a sin if my daughters and I wear a 2 pc. bathing suit , a 1 pc. bathing suit? Should we wear shorts and a tank top instead? How short is short? Who's to say that a tank top is not a sin as well? Someone else may believe that wearing shorts is a sin and will send you straight to hell. Who is right?

I do believe in modesty. And i do believe it starts in the heart. I have a 16 yr. old daughter as well as a 7 yr old daughter. Arielle (16) is very modest in everything she does. It's a mind set for her. She wears longer skirts (just because she likes them), wears jeans most of the summer and hardly wears shorts above the knee most of the time. Yet she does wear a t wo piece around our family at the lake. When she is not in the water she wears something over her bathing suit and ther e are no young guys around. By your standards, she is going to hell. I can tell you that I know for sure that is not the cas e.

For those who are interested, Nancy DeMoss is doing a series on modesty right now on her radio program. You can rea d it here:

ReviveOurHearts.com

I don't mean to argue or be disagreeable, I am merely stating my own opinion. I feel grievous about the many other thing s that are going on in the world, the hearts of many who are growing cold and distant to God or don't know Him at all. It s eems to me that a bikini is the least of our worries.

In Him, Chanin

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 17:16

I just can't believe that people are still justifying bikinis and condemning the preaching. I'm really beside myself about that.

Quote:

-----Does this mean that all christians who are not out calling 'sinners' to repent in public - that we are backslidden?

Through His Word God has called all Christians to preach the gospel of repentance and remission.

The first priority of the Church is not the great commission. The first priority of the Church is to be worthy of the Great Co mmission. If a person is not living a holy life, is not reading the Word and spending deep time in prayer, they are not fit fo r His service. Only those who have a secret ministry of prayer are fit to have a public ministry of preaching.

But I have a hard time imagining that any follower of Jesus would not be a fisher of men. I have a hard time that a perso n who loves God and loves perishing souls would say "no" to God when it comes to the Great Commission. If you want t o follow Jesus, if you want to be like Jesus, be a fisher of men. Seek and save that which is lost.

Charles Spurgeon can be bolder then I can be, "Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yours elf! Be sure of that."

Quote:

-----I have to wonder if you claim to have no sin- that you never sin? That you are also not a sinner

Since my conversion there have been times that I have sinned. When I find myself in sin I do what the bible commands, repent!

But I love God and keep His Commandments. I have confessed all my sins and God has forgiven me and has cleansed me from all unrighteousness. The Lamb of God has taken away my sin, and His grace teaches me to deny ungodliness and worldly lust that I may live righteously and soborly. I take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and when I'm tempted God always provides a way out. Though I'm not dead to temptation, not even Jesus was free from temptatio n, I am free from sin, as Paul testified in Romans 6 that he was free from sin and dead unto sin.

Can anyone else testify with Paul to be free from sin? If not, how do you know you are a Christian? By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

I used to be a sinner. But when I met Jesus He touched me and made me a new person, He gave me a new heart. When you are born again you become a new person and walk in what the bible calls "newness of life". You put off the old man and put on the new. The New Testament always addressed Christians as Saints, not sinners. "To the Saints that are at Ephesus" "To the Saint that are at Colosse" etc etc.

Only once does the bible call a Christian a sinner. And it's referring to Christian backsliders who have lost their salvation. It's James 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth a sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death, and a multitude of sins."

I would say anyone who wears a bikini, Christian or not, has something seriously wrong with their heart. To love God means to keep His commandments. And to love your neighbor means not to cause him to stumble. There is no love in a bikini, only selfishness. Any woman who doesn't mind guys seeing the parts of the body that are revealed when a bikini is worn has something wrong with them. Maybe they used to love God, but not when they do such things.

Would you feel comfortable wearing a bikini to Church? I can't image any godly women letting her own children see her wear such wordliness. This is not the Christian life.

I encourage all of you to seek God in prayer and read the bible about this. I know many of you to be sincere Christians. But ask God to show you if you have allowed the world into your lives and compromise into your hearts. This is a serious issue not to be taken lightly. Bikinis publicly worn are 100% sinful.

When the public preaching against sin is condemned, but the public wearing of bikinis is justified, there is something drastically wrong! And I know that there are others on these boards who have expressed privately to me that they too are deeply grieved over this. Check your heart.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 17:41

Quote:

I just can't believe that people are still justifying bikinis and condemning the preaching. I'm really beside myself about that.

Maybe you are beside yourself because you have departed from preaching the Bible?

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 17:45

"KingJimmy" when was the last time you have heard me preach open air? I don't recall ever preaching with you.

There are lots of audios of my preaching. Please feel free to quote any of my preaching and give me a scripture of correction.

But my preaching is too fold. 1. Repentance. Sinners must turn from their sin and turn to Jesus Christ. 2. Remission. The blood of Jesus Christ can wash the sinner clean, sinners can be reconciled back to God through His blood, no longer be His enemies but can be His friends.

There are two impressions I desire to give sinners when I preach. 1. There is hope with Jesus. 2. There is no hope without Him!

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 17:46

Quote:

I am not trying to major on the minors at all. I do not go everywhere preaching against bikinis. I only do that at beaches. Why? Because that is the maj or sin of beaches. At a bar I preach against drunkenness. At a homosexual parade I preach against homosexuality. On a campus I preach mainly again st drunkenness and fornication. Our messages must be relevant to the condition of the audience.

Is that all you do though, preach against sin? I've been growingly concerned for you over the past year or so, that such i s simply all you are becoming, a preacher against sin. When you made it on to MTV did they hear you preaching about Christ, or did they hear you preaching about sin? Don't think the two are the same.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 17:49

Quote:

"KingJimmy" when was the last time you have heard me preach open air? I don't recall ever preaching with you.

I've heard your audio files, and have read your articles, and have received your newsletter. I've been guilty of the same, and only of late have come to realize that much of my preaching was not Christ centered, even if it was a message stee ped in a call to repentance.

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 17:49

Brother I'm sorry that you have such a misconception about me. I preach about sin and about Jesus.

Wesley said, "Preach 90% Law and 10% grace." And I completely agree with Wesley. A person must first understand th eir sin and then they will understand Christ.

I preach Jesus Christ. But there is a balance here that I think you are missing. Don't go from one extreme to the other. T here is a balance. You seem to be promoting, "preach Jesus as Savior only" which is not biblical. Paul preached Jesus a lso as Judge! We must preach the full council of God. But you seem to be one sided. I preach as Paul did, about "sin, ri ghteousness, and judgment to come."

We must preach wrath as well as forgiveness. We must preach God's anger as well as His love. We must preach God's hell as well as God's heaven. It's not one or the other, it's both.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 17:54

Quote:
-----1. Repentance. Sinners must turn from their sin and turn to Jesus Christ. 2. Remission. The blood of Jesus Christ can wash the slei ght clean, sinners can be reconciled back to God through His blood, no longer be His enemies but can be His friends.

There are two impressions I desire to give sinners when I preach. 1. There is hope with Jesus. 2. There is no hope without Him!

I believe God has this thread on here for a reason not just for the sake of proving each other right or wrong. To be hones t Jesse, I have not heard you use much of the wording you quoted above in most of your preaching I have heard. "the co ncept that people can be friends with God." I don't think I have heard that ever from you. I am not trying to say all that yo u do is wrong but you are heavily emphasizing preaching on sin over other things and I would say that 75% at least of yo ur preaching does that? is that a correct thing?

Also almost all the video that is featured on any news or internet site has you **railing** against sin, is that profitable.

Again these are good things to think about and consider, I am not judging you that is for you to do yourself. You are a wordsmith and passionate especially in controversial issues so my reactions and others are not in vehement response but rather trying to keep pace with the arguments and statements you are setting forth.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/6/21 17:54

Yes KingJimmy my sentiments exactly. Jesse don't let the devil take you off on a rabbit trail. The issue is not about bikinis but it is about your preaching. I don't condone or defend bikinis but I am highly critical of the preaching. It is your preaching that is the issue not bikinis. I have also become concerned for you and as you know, have been trying to urge you to get DEAD serious about purity in preaching and keeping your tongue free from the fires of Hell.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 17:55

Quote:

-----Wesley said

Have you actually read any of his sermons, there is alot more Jesus and grace, love, mercy preaching then you would expect.

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/6/21 17:57

As I read this I think of Ravenhills interview when he talked about a preacher at a swimming pool for the first time with their family....and the preacher realised his children were seeing their mom nearly naked for the first time...and the preacher left after being grieved over what he was seeing in public, and another man left soon after he did, Ravenhill said.

Someone said 2 pc. or 1 pc. where do we draw the line??? Where is the line drawn when watching tv?? How much filth do you let in before you turn it off or "leave it?"

How do you go to a beach and see half naked or (in my opinion naked) women and not wrestle with thoughts....not good thoughts??? As I said before they leave nothing to imagine! I really think WE or alot of us have gotten used to the darkness we live in.

EXAMPLE: Yellow Springs Ohio is a witch haven...witch craft stores and so on... AND yet NO ONE in the town sees it as a darkness! They laugh at you...."O whats wrong with the TARA CARD store its all for fun" they say... Charles Manson wants to move their to...

So whats my point here....WE are so used to nakedness in our society...WE dont see it anymore as wrong or sinful or immodest!

Before long we'll have so called christians going to real nude beaches....and someone will say "where do you draw the line??" Hmmm...

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 17:58

While I agree that it's possible to preach too little of Christ, I disagree that it is possible to preach too much against sin.

If I am guilty of anything, may it be that I preach too hard or too much against sin!! It is sin which separates men from God. It was sin that nailed Christ to the cross. It is sin that sends souls that God loves to eternal hell. If I preach too much against anything, may I preach too much against sin!

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 18:00

Quote:

-----I really think WE or alot of us have gotten used to the darkness we live in.

That is what I am seeing as well.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 18:15

Quote:

-----If I am guilty of anything, may it be that I preach too hard or too much against sin!!

Can we be guilty of preaching wrongly? Can we preach too hard against sin, is there a point when this is wrong and lead s people away from Christ instead of too Him? Or do we all go out there and even in our zealousness **bash** people tellin g them how disgustingly sinful and vile their life's are and how far they are away from God in their pathetic sinful selfish s tate?

Can we preach against sin without compassion? is that wrong? Where is the place to show love and compassion or is it in always yelling to warn people against their sins (even though that can be a **part** of compassion). Can it be done in a w rong way?

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 18:18

A preacher who doesn't have compassion is no preacher that belongs to Jesus.

True compassion is deep, internal pain and agony over the lost condition of sinners.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/6/21 18:32

I would be great if you could answer some of my questions I posted here:

Quote:

-----Can we be guilty of preaching wrongly? Can we preach too hard against sin, is there a point when this is wrong and leads people a way from Christ instead of too Him? Or do we all go out there and even in our zealousness bash people telling them how disgustingly sinful and vile th eir life's are and how far they are away from God in their pathetic sinful selfish state?

Can we preach against sin without compassion? is that wrong? Where is the place to show love and compassion or is it in always yelling to warn peopl e against their sins (even though that can be a part of compassion). Can it be done in a wrong way?

Jesse said:

Quote:

-----True compassion is deep, internal pain and agony over the lost condition of sinners.

How does that practically play out in our Christian life with unbelievers? Can it be done in a wrong way? is sharing the lo ve of Jesus with people who are unbelievers a wrong thing to do?

I just posted this in another thread:

A Letter to Street Preachers

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=11119&forum=35

I will quote it below to show a extermity of some of these things we are talking about that is very unhealthy and un-christi an:

Quote:

-----This is a link off Jed Smocks website: <http://www.brojed.org/friendlies.html>

Things like this are ridiclous and bringing shame to the name of Christ:

ATTENTION WATCHMEN

THE WICKED WILL SOON BE PRANCING IN OUR STREETS AND THEREFORE MUST BE WARNED, SO GO STAND IN THE GAP. DO NOT WITNESS, DO NOT SING, DO NOT BEFRIEND, DO NOT JUSTIFY, DO NOT JUST PRAY, DO NOT JUST TEACH AGAINST THEM IN CHURCH...GO...GO...GO...CHARGE...RUN...RUSH THE ENEMY...CONFRONT THE DARKNESS WITH LIGHT...ATTACK GOD'S FOE WITH BOLDNESS AND TRUTH (2TIM.4:2).

from:
<http://www.officialstreetpreachers.com/HOMO%20TIME/HOMOTIME.html>

Re: Chanin's post, on: 2006/6/21 18:43

Hi Chanin,

Just a couple things here. First, about wearing a bikini sends a woman to hell. Jesse said that it is sufficient to send a woman to hell. In other words it's a sin. But I haven't got the picture that Jesse was insinuating that a woman loses her salvation if she wears such attire.

It's great you mentioned Nancy Leigh DeMoss. Unfortunately we don't have our program in our area and I don't have highspeed Internet...so I have to read the transcripts. Have you heard all of Nancy's teaching on modesty? I bought her series from last year and it was excellent. Has your daughter heard it? I think if we Christian ladies really have a love for God and love for our brothers, when God gives us the light as to what defrauds and causes someone to stumble, we will quickly turn and repent of being the cause of sin in another's life. Yes, it sometimes is dying to what we may want. Sure it's more comfortable to dress in a certain way, but I deny myself that right so the men around me don't stumble and fall.

Have you read any of the resources that Nancy has mentioned? One of them is called 'The Public Undressing of America' by Jeff Pollard. Excellent book on this topic.

As to the bathing suit, 2 pc vs 1 pc, well, I don't think either one is modest. Both reveal and accentuate the form of a female body in a way that only her husband should see.

As to your excuse for your daughter's swimming attire being that no young guys are around...well, this problem isn't just limited to the young male generation...

Just to give a solution for swimming attire, visit www.wholesomewear.com They have the best selection that I have ever seen for swimwear.

You are so right about it being a heart issue. And I hope and pray that every woman (and father and husband as the protectors of their daughters and wife) really search their hearts on this matter. I was reading this morning in 2 Corinthians about the Judgment Seat of Christ. I want to stand up as a woman and know that I lived my life in a way that was wholly pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ and that this temple that He has given me has been used for His glory in a holy and pure way.

God bless you, my sister, as you seek to know more of Him!

~Joy

Re:, on: 2006/6/21 19:00

I want to elaborate more on my previous post:

A preacher who doesn't have compassion is no preacher that belongs to Jesus. True compassion is deep, internal pain and agony over the lost condition of sinners. True compassion is not dealing lightly with sin. Rather, true compassion will cause someone to deal very strongly with sin.

Just as a preacher who doesn't have compassion does not belong to Jesus, so also a preacher who does not preach hard against sin, calling men to repent, does not belong to Jesus.

The preacher who will not preach, "unless you repent you will all likewise perish" does not follow in the foot steps of Jesus. The preacher who does not "reason about sin, self-control, and judgment to come" does not follow in the example given by the Apostle Paul.

My question is, why is it that if a preacher preaches hard against sin, he is automatically accused of not being compassionate or having tears for sinners? I would say that man who does not preach hard against sin gives signs of not having compassion and tears for sinners!

Question: Can we be guilty of preaching wrongly?

Yes. A preacher who uses unbiblical methods, has an unbiblical message, or has an unbiblical motive preaches wrongly.

Question: Can we preach too hard against sin?

While I agree that it's possible to preach too little of Christ. I do not agree that it's possible to preach too hard or too much against sin.

Question: Is there a point when this is wrong and leads people away from Christ instead of too Him?

The entire belief that sinners are on a neutral ground, not having decided for or against Christ, is unbiblical. Christ taught men are either for Him or against Him.

Sinners may use the excuse of "hard preaching against sin" to say why they don't want to come to Christ. But it is further evidence of their guilt. They don't want to come to Christ because they know it requires leaving their sin, and that is unthinkable to the man who loves his sin. They choose darkness over the light.

Question: Or do we all go out there and even in our zealousness bash people telling them how disgustingly sinful and vile their life's are and how far they are away from God in their pathetic sinful selfish state?

The only word I disagree with her is "bash". We are not to bash anyone. We are to preach the gospel. Are we to be zealous? Yes! Along with knowledgable. Are we to describe how disgustingly sinful and vile their lives are? Yes! Along with telling them how wonderful, and glorious, and beautiful Christ is. Are we to tell them how pathetic life is without Christ? Yes! Along with telling them how meaningful and purposeful it is with Christ. Are we to warn how sinful and selfish their lives are? Absolutely. Because sin is what separates man from God and selfishness is the root of all sin!

Question: Can we preach against sin without compassion? is that wrong?

Yes and I fear many preachers do preach against sin without compassion and it's terribly wrong. The bible says owe no one anything except for love. And we do owe them love.

Question: Where is the place to show love and compassion or is it in always yelling to warn people against their sins (even though that can be a part of compassion). Can it be done in a wrong way?

Yes love will warn the wicked of the terrible hell that awaits them. True compassion should move us to get out into a lost and dying world with the life giving message of Jesus Christ.

John Wesley said, "For God's sake, don't yell". And I agree. And open air preacher should never yell. Raise his voice yes. Talk yes. Preach yes. But yell, no.

We must warn the wicked with a right spirit. We ought to love people enough to be willing to be thought a fool and a heretick as to do what the modern church refuses to do, preach hard against sin. We are not to take sin lightly, God and the devil don't! Sin is a killer. Sin is vicious. Sin is playing for keeps. We are to be merciless towards unrepented sin because God is. We must show the ugliness and vileness and evilness of sin. And we must do so with the right spirit, with the right motive, and with the right means.

Question: How does that practically play out in our Christian life with unbelievers? First and foremost it ought to lead us into days of deep prayer and fasting. Two, it should lead us to warn them of the terrible future that awaits them if they remain apart from Christ.

Question: is sharing the love of Jesus with people who are unbelievers a wrong thing to do?

Jesus never gave the gospel to a proud, self-righteous, arrogant, unrepented sinner. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Even John 3:16, which the modern Church broadcasts to the entire world, Jesus only gave to one person, a humble pharisee.

There is a time for sharing the message of God's wrath and there is a time to share about God's love. But if a preacher EVER gives the impression that God is not angry with unrepented sinners, and that God accepts them as they are, that preacher is out of the will of God and out of the safety of the scriptures.

A message that, "God loves you as you are" or "God accepts you as you are" can strengthen sinners in their sin. The false prophets in the old testament always said, "peace, peace" when there is no peace. And there are many false prophets today who give the impression that God accepts sinners as they are, without telling them the threatenings of the Law.

A true preacher will preach both the threatenings of the Law and also the promises of the gospel. Be careful not to go from one extreme to the other. There are preachers who focus only on God's anger. And there are preachers who focus only on the love of God. But we must preach both!

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/6/21 19:34

Now were getting to the real issue I think...COMPASION!

The Lord has dealt with me just recently about preaching with compassion. I believe there will be NO compassion in our preaching without weeping over the lost before we go preach to them!! Jer. 9:1

Weep day & night!

I remember J. Edwards daughter telling his congregation that "you say daddy preaches hard...but if you could hear him weep for you behind closed doors..."

As William Booth told his discouraged church before coming home "try tears"

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 22:48

Quote:

Wesley said, "Preach 90% Law and 10% grace." And I completely agree with Wesley. A person must first understand their sin and then they will understand Christ.

I preach Jesus Christ. But there is a balance here that I think you are missing. Don't go from one extreme to the other. There is a balance. You seem to be promoting, "preach Jesus as Savior only" which is not biblical

I agree greatly with the principles about preaching the law of God in order bring the sinner to an awareness of their sin, and the judgment of God upon sin. And I am far from preaching Jesus as savior only, for I firmly believe that Jesus cannot be one's savior unless Jesus is one's Lord. I am not advocating some sort of easy believism conversion stuff. I firmly believe and preach that there is no salvation outside of discipleship.

Quote:

We must preach wrath as well as forgiveness. We must preach God's anger as well as His love. We must preach God's hell as well as God's heaven. It's not one or the other, it's both.

Agreed. But where I'm really concerned here with you, and many other fellow street preachers is how little of Christ we actually preach. The Lord showed me once that I was guilty of preaching Christ only in order to further show the sinner how he was damned. And I think this is what many other street preachers are guilty of as well.

I think such can be seen especially in Ray Comfort's going through the 10 commandments approach, where he takes a sinner through each of the commandments and probes around to find if they are guilty of breaking one of them. It seems when it gets to things such as do not murder or do not commit adultery, Jesus' sermon on the mount is invoked simply to show how not only should we not commit adultery, but how we shouldn't lust either.

Frankly, this is the most I have heard Christ preached. Christ simply becomes another tool to attempt to convict somebody of their sin in much of our street preaching.

For you street preachers out there, ask yourselves these questions:

How often do you talk about how Christ raised the dead in your preaching? Do you talk about the man at Nain, or Lazarus?

Do you talk about how Christ cast out the legion of devils?

Do you talk about how Christ calmed the sea?

Do you talk about how Christ multiplied the loaves and fishes?

Do you talk about the woman with the issue of blood?

Do you talk about the woman and the alabaster box and worship (remember, Christ said wherever the gospel was preached, she would be remembered!)

When you go about your preaching my fellow street preachers, is your preaching consumed with talking about the actual life and ministry of Jesus Christ?

If we read Acts closely and honestly, you will see such was done as much as hell-fire preaching was. If we were to spend 90% of our time preaching on sin, and then 10% on grace, we will have still missed a ton about the life of Christ which we are called to proclaim.

The only thing I must lament about Ray Comfort's ministry and the principles that he teaches is that many people have taken a truth that Comfort has wonderful insight about, and made it **the** truth. So much so that when we read the book of Acts, we can count all the places that the apostles preached against sin and called people to repentance, but we also fail to notice in the process they were equally consumed about telling others about the entire life and ministry of Christ.

And just a side note, if we were to really be as studious about this, and as Biblical as possible, scholars have generally identified 10 topics that we see happen over and over again in all the preaching recorded in the New Testament. I would have to consult a book or two to fully elaborate on those 10 things, however, suffice to say such should show us that the gospel the early church preached was much broader, and they were consumed with much more than a "turn or burn" message.

Wesley also once said "I gave them Christ!"

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 22:58

Quote:

While I agree that it's possible to preach too little of Christ, I disagree that it is possible to preach too much against sin.

I'm all in favor of preaching against sin. We need more of it. However, it is possible and often done, that street preacher s tend to preach too much against sin. If sin is the center of your message instead of Christ, then you've preached too much against sin. Your preaching should be characterized by the world as focusing on Christ, not sin. This is what we see over and over again in the New Testament.

Re: - posted by allhavsinned (), on: 2006/6/21 23:05

I just read this from a link on the 'letter to street preachers' thread...

Christians are to testify to:

The immortality of the soul. (The fact that conscious existence goes on forever - as this is clearly revealed in the Bible.)

The vanity and unsatisfying nature of all earthly good.

The fulfilling nature and glorious sufficiency of serving Jesus.

The guilt of sinners - and the reality of hell as a place of eternal punishment for them.

The love of Christ for sinners.

The necessity of a holy life, if we think of ever living for eternity in the presence of God. Without holiness, "no one shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14)

The necessity of self-denial and of living above the world.

The necessity of meekness, humility, and heavenly-mindedness.

The necessity of complete integrity and an entire renovation of character and life for all who would enter heaven. (Of course, it should be made clear that this, as well as the previous three, are only attainable by fully submitting by faith to Christ.)

How To Be A Witness
...For the Right Side
Charles G. Finney

for the complete article: <http://www.lastdaysministries.org/articles/howtobeawitness.html>

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/21 23:19

Jesus once said that the weightier issues of the law are justice, mercy, and faithfulness. These are the major sins Jesus said. Homosexuality didn't seem to make that list, hmm....

My fellow street preachers, when you preach against sin, do you denounce:

injustice?

harshness?

unfaithfulness?

These are the big sins Jesus said. Yet I imagine these are the sins we preach against the least. They are the ones that demand your fullest attention. Yet how many of you have preached against them? Do they regularly make it into your list of sins?

I dare say if they don't, then you've never preached against sin.

Brother Jesse, on: 2006/6/22 1:34

you wrote

Quote:

-----Through His Word God has called all Christians to preach the gospel of repentance and remission.

Through His Word Jesus the Lord has called us to love the Lord our God with all our heart mind and soul, AND He told us to love our neighbors as ourselves.....THAT IS what He called us individually to do.

Paul the Apostle detailed that the Church, that is the Body of Christ, would have different individuals as the natural body has different parts, some are meant to teach and preach, some are meant to exhort, some are meant to serve, others are meant to be encouragers, etc. The Church, the precious Body of Christ that lives IN US, has many members.

Let me frank, blunt, in the love of Christ, something hard, hard-edged has crept into your dialogue. Something unwilling to engage in self examination, something pharisaical that "just knows" that you are right, righteous, and everyone else is wrong.

It's religious pride, the food of the pharisee, watch out brother, it's poison and will rot the muscles of your heart and stumble many. Refusing to even consider the validity of the correction you have received on this forum is indicative of this religious pride

I may be a worm of Christ Jesus, and a nothing, just refuse of the earth, but how do you know, that I might not be giving you a Word?

Why did not you even address what I suggested to you?....that you go and love on, and pray with homosexuals dying in Aids hospices, and tell them of this glorious Gospel, wonderful beautiful Jesus Who took their sins upon his bent and battered body that so even in this 11th hour they may receive such provisions of Grace.

do you really want to waste your time outside bars engaged in shrieking matches with drunks, or bad scenes at Texas swimming holes ? How is Jesus being served by such witness?

You sure you might not be addicted to the adrenalin rush of the street confrontation?

Dear Jesse, I said my piece in the leading of His Spirit and I beg your forgiveness if I offended you, I urge you to prayer

ully consider what has been said by others on this forum.

bartle

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/6/22 1:40

Well, here goes ...

Almost hate to feel obligated to have the preface, the classic ... "While I appreciate the ..." Followed by the "But..."

All you brothers who are out there confronting the world, boldly in heart and spirit, willing to or maybe better stated compelled to share the Gospel with all walks of life in all kinds of difficult and even dangerous situations ... That I prayed more for each and everyone of you and that all those here would do likewise, regardless of thought's and opinions on manner and style. You are doing what many would not do, I would include myself in those ranks ... to a point.

That point is partially just by way of observance so I don't really know what I am talking about by experience. The one thing I haven't heard here as of yet is just the reliance upon the Holy Spirit. Not that anyone in their right mind would be out there doing this without Him, but do you guy's rely on the promptings as to what to speak in any given situation? For instance in the situation that this whole post surrounds or has been maybe even overestimated from what Jesse is stating, seem to recall that this was just a part ...

There is something just a bit peculiar about the "*how to's*" being offered across the board when the situation isn't really the determining factor ... I think. Again, I don't pretend to know so it is as much a question as anything. What I seem to recall very much from Robert's preaching as he has expressed it here from time to time and as just one of many examples, that he is more concerned with bringing the message the Lord wants conveyed in that particular moment. If it is not too forward of me saying so, that he would just as soon shelve a 'prepared' topic or sermon if he felt the Lord wanted to go in an entirely different direction. What I perceive a bit here is a reactionary impulse often times to the surroundings and of course how could one but not do that, seems quite normal. Could only imagine when one is faced with this sort of thing, the hecklers and the drunks outside of bars, the beach ... That this would be quite normal to react against. *But ...*

Surely balance, but Whose and when and in which situation? I have long since sensed a very dangerous word for the Christian is *Always* when it comes to the things of the Lord. To use a very poor analogy, it does seem to me in my experience that the Lord is often throwing curve-balls to what I *think* ought to be done, said or not said. Have found by long experience that a great deal of trouble has been caused by my unwillingness to often just keep my mouth shut and a great deal of good done by not having a concern about it other than that I am paying attention and listening, praying constantly to hear the Lord's still quiet voice, and then speak if need be.

Hard for a street preacher I am sure, how does he stay quiet? That's not really the emphasis here though. Thinking greatly of how the Lord Himself behaved in front of the crowds He was addressing, or Paul. Different at different times and not seemingly premeditated. That the Lord more often than not left His listeners with more questions than answers, probing questions to be sure, right to the heart. Paul's being prompted to *not preach* by the Holy Spirit but to go somewhere else, again not *always*.

This will likely be misconstrued but when I first began to be led into the Light and still had much to learn ... My wife and I went to go see Metallica, yes, those guy's. Had won tickets off the radio and it was when they were recording with the San Francisco Symphony. *Different* to say the least ... But while we were in line there were a couple of guy's with their big signs, "God hates____" so on and so forth, they were pretty vocal and ... The strangest thing I have never forgotten was as we were standing in line and my eye's met with one of them and he never again uttered a word the rest of the time we were in line, it struck me as very odd and do hope nothing gets read into that. I don't really know ... why. But I was quietly praying underneath that they seemed genuinely sincere even in all their rallying, but also quite angry, misdirected, bitter. Wanted to say something, that I was a 'new believer' and ...

Don't have a particular conclusion here, just thought I would share.

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/6/22 2:20

You are right Mike we must be lead by the Holy Spirit. I personal will not preach unless the Lord has given me a message and directed me to preach. See, we must understand that we don't know what to say or do, but God knows exactly what to say and what he wants us to do. We need to speak directed by the Spirit letting Him speak through us and not of our own understanding. If the Lord has not given me a word then I seek Him as what he would have me do - one to one witnessing, intercede, observe (maybe he wants to teach me something), serve, etc. One weekend I didn't preach or one to one witness at all either Sat or Sun, but I spent about 8-10 hours in the park praying and interceding for those were preaching and witnessing.(under the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit) The point is we should not lean on our own understanding and let what we think is good lead us away from the perfect will of God. We must be lead by the Spirit and walk in the Spirit constantly drawing and pressing closer to God and seeking, hungering and thirsting after His perfect will.

I may be more sensitive to this now because of the people we are witnessing to. I had some sense and knowledge of being lead by the Spirit when witnessing say at the Super Bowl or the Final Four Basketball games, but when witnessing to crack and heroin addicts, drug dealers, gang members, prostitutes, homeless, pimps, etc. you have to be in the Spirit and rely on Him for what to say and do. This does in no way lessen the fact that we need to be lead by the Spirit and let Him do the talking no matter who we are witnessing to. God knows what to say and when to say it- not us.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/6/22 6:24

Quote:

Not that anyone in their right mind would be out there doing this without Him, but do you guys rely on the promptings as to what to speak in any given situation?

This is being addressed in the other Letter to Street Preachers through. However, to the grieving of my heart, I must say that once in an article I read of Jesse's that he said street preaching is more of a skill and art form than a gift from God. I don't know if he still holds to that statement, I hope not. I know he speaks of anointing some, but such does not seem to be the foundation of his operations.

Re: What is an ambassador of Christ - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/6/22 9:40

I appreciate these last several posts – they help me articulate what my calling really is as an ambassador of Christ.

Quote:

----- So, how is everyone getting edified from this thread?

This question caught my attention. It got me thinking. Why am I hanging around this thread, when it feels like a waste of time. In fact, I received one hostile private email in response, demanding that I repent of my attitude. (I wonder how often our mods receive such things)

It makes me realize how close the household of God walks towards tribalism and witch-hunts. Right this minute I am thinking of three people who have become atheists because of what they saw in the church.

It breaks my heart when God's people are so quick to attack the sins that they themselves abhor. Yet they don't bat an eyelash at the gross injustice and exploitation of humanity going on all around. In fact many are schmoozing the very ones who are subtly using them – those "important people", giving them the "seat of honor".

I was once a good Christian (on the outside) – sincere and dedicated. In my past, the same preachers who would speak out hellfire on the bikini-clad female and the homosexual would also heap all kinds of affirmation on me – thus reinforcing my own hypocritical deception. It makes me wonder if the bikini-lady is safer than the pleaser-churchlady.

I have come to this conclusion:

There are two places where it is dangerous to assess the spiritual condition of someone: the church and the beach. Our conclusions are too easily obscured by outer appearance, and that affects the way we treat people.

There are disparate needs all around us, though easily masked. Countless are beat up, worn, and despairing, – but all we see is their spiked hair black lipstick. Dare we beat them up some more? We have lost our ability to give out “cups of cold water”. We can’t weep with or for the wounded anymore. Like them, we have become numb.

People are committing suicide on a daily basis because they can’t cope any longer. Our counselling agencies and health facilities are over run. Yet our churches are empty most of the week – impotent, fixated on programs and rituals, and wasting our time over a bit of fabric, or some other thing they can do nothing about, or liability policies.

Cancer and other diseases are ramped. We are killing ourselves in all kinds of ways – like over consumption of unhealthy foods. And yet we Christians don’t bat an eyelash. In fact, we even practise gluttony ourselves, sanctified at our potlucks. My, how easily we overlook all the sins that are our own.

We use the word, “sin” to refer to outer manifestations, clothing, addictive behaviors, sexual orientation, etc. But we haven’t even begun to address sin. I know you will disagree. But I say, we haven’t even come near the core of the heart – separation from God, trying to live with out him.

Our zealous preachers may indeed succeed in generating a form of repentance: ladies may very well dress better, but this only ends up polishing the outer cup. Then these people are worse than before, for now, they have some self-righteousness to wrap around themselves.

So, if anything, I hope this thread causes us all to examine our lives: Do we radiate the glory of Christ, or are we just wearing ourselves out, resorting to manipulative and controlling attempts to change others?

Diane

Re: - posted by Nellie, on: 2006/6/22 10:04

This may seem simple to some, but what happened to preaching salvation, getting the people saved,
Saved by the Blood of the Lamb,
and let the Holy Spirit clean them up?
After I got saved, no one had to tell me how to dress.
It may take longer for others to dress modestly, but the Spirit of God will show them, if they are truly born again.
God Bless
Nellie

Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2006/6/22 10:28

Brother Jesse,

I think you are very courageous to do the things you do. I also am blessed by your writings that are posted here on this site.

Remember that Jesus saved his strongest indictments for the religious people of his times and was much more merciful to the people who were sinners.

Jesus to the woman caught in adultery:

"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Jesus to the Pharisees:

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those who are trying to."

The people that you preach to don't know God, or his requirements, or his holiness. We have to remember these people have been living in ignorance to God, which is different than willful defiance.

I believe that is why Jesus spoke more harshly to the Pharisees than to the sinners. Because the Pharisees should have known better.

God bless your ministry Jesse.

Murray

Re: - posted by Christisking (), on: 2006/6/22 10:34

Quote:

-----So, how is everyone getting edified from this thread?

and

Quote:

-----I was once a good Christian (on the outside)Â– sincere and dedicated. In my past, the same preachers who would spew out hellfire on the bikini-clad female and the homosexual would also heap all kinds of affirmation on me Â– thus reinforcing my own hypocritical deception. It makes me wonder if the bikini-lady is safer than the pleaser-churchlady.

Would it not be extremely edifying if we could turn or deter just one from the aforementioned actions? I feel this should be the goal of the thread. But sadly I don't feel it is working.

Re: - posted by RevKerrigan (), on: 2006/6/22 10:39

I do believe that sin can be preached against TOO MUCH. I have heard it done in person and on audio. Too often I have seen or heard Christian street preachers leave Christ out of a message. All they preach against is sin. Three problems with this: 1) they leave lost sinners hopeless in their sins with no solution to their detriment 2) they have not determined to know nothing else except Christ and Christ Crucified. 3) the lost sinners who are hearing the message begin to think it is a works message...that one can be saved by stopping sinning. Why do sinners sin? Because they are sinners! They know nothing else and are in bondage to their sin. What can stop them from sinning? Nothing except them becoming Born Again. God must remove their cold, dirty, hard heart and give them a new one. We must preach the New Birth! Because it is only through the indwelt Holy Spirit that they can ever live a life that brings God Glory. Some O/A preachers I have heard seem to think that a person can live rightly apart from being a Christian. When sin and repentance is preached too much, the hearers begin to think that God will save them if they reform their lives and start to live rightly. It is no wonder they get mad many times. The logical conclusion if they think this is that the preacher thinks He must be better than them, because he says he is going to Heaven while his hearers are not. Our message needs to be VERY CLEAR. Repentance and Faith--> becoming Born Again and living a right life because of what God's Grace has done in you!

Re: 5 Points Against (Inappropriate Dressing) edit - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/6/22 12:10

Brother Jesse stay faithful!!! I have told a lot of Christians about you! Many of us are not as faithful as you are. Brother your out there in the thick of it all and some others are the thick of reading books...nothing wrong with reading Christian books but if that's all we do then....

Spiritual books or sermons don't make us spiritual...it may make us FEEL spiritual.

Brother I believe you'll be closer to the throne of God than a lot of us in heaven!

Stay the course!! We are all growing in grace!!!

Re: - posted by GodsMyJudge, on: 2006/6/22 15:29

Scripture is clear on naming sin, exposing sin, condemning sin and coming against sin wherever it may be found, be it in our local assemblies, our city streets or at beaches.

To decry the ministry of another man due to not accepting that man's approach in preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ is sinful in itself.

Jesse Morrell proclaims not only that sin is wicked in all of its forms but also exalts the Name of Jesus Christ wherever he is found to be ministering the Word of God.

May God Himself strike with conviction those who come against the Gospel they claim to love and obey.

Well did Isaiah the Prophet speak of you!

You blind Pharisees!

I wonder how much time even the administrator of this forum spends with the Lord in prayer and in fasting before speaking such wicked words against another servant of God?

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/6/22 16:00

Quote:

-----Spiritual books or sermons dont make us spiritual...it may make us FEEL spiritual.

I like this, quite true.

If not careful, we can consume all of our time and our affection at the expense of learning the WORD (the living WORD).

Re:, on: 2006/6/22 17:46

I appreciate the encouragements from brothers on these boards. I also appreciate the warnings and corrections. Most of all I am deeply grateful for the prayers of the Brothers and Sisters on these boards.

For the most part I think I've commented a lot already, clarifying issues and apologizing for others. I feel no need to defend myself or my ministry, if others wish to do so then they can.

If anyone would like to call to talk, my cell is 203 444 1912

I commit myself to the judgment of the Lord. Judgment Day will reveal all things!

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/6/24 17:52

Thanks Jesse,

Think we may all have learned something through this. Know that the greatest part of us has both yours and more importantly, the Lord's interest in mind.

Whatever He says to you, do it. Joh 2:5

GodsMyJudge

You have little to no idea what you are talking about it.

Re: - posted by habakkuk3 (), on: 2006/6/24 18:22

Jesse,

I appreciate your gentle spirit. It's a wonderful thing to receive a rebuke from a brother. I find that oftentimes more helpful than a word of encouragement but it takes a soft heart that is willing to receive it and then lay it out before the Lord.

You have such a soft heart toward Jesus and I pray that this bleeds through as you speak to others about our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We need not worry about bringing conviction to another because that's a work of the Holy Spirit but rather we need to ensure that we're being obedient to what Jesus has called us to do. I praise God that you're doing that Jesse and am asking the Lord to use you as a great harvester of souls into the kingdom of God.

Blessings to you. I thank God for his discipline and correction, although I never really like it at the time it yields wonderful results as stated in Hebrews 12.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/6/30 15:52

Quote:
----- I must say that once in an article I read of Jesse's that he said street preaching is more of a skill and art form than a gift from God. I don't know if he still holds to that statement, I hope not. I know he speaks of anointing some, but such does not seem to be the foundation of his operations.

Here is a sermon on this site called (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid9737>) Anointing in Open Air By Jesse Morrell.