

General Topics :: Ray comfort / Humanism

Ray comfort / Humanism - posted by coops (), on: 2005/4/22 22:42

Looking at Ray Comfort's techniques for evangelism, I am a little surprised. He says to use the law to show sinners where they stand before God. On his training video the normal flow of the conversation goes something like this (condensed):

Ray: Have you ever lied?

Sinner: Yes

Ray: Have you ever stolen something?

Sinner: Yes

etc...

Ray: You have just admitted to me you are a lying, theiving (etc) at heart.

Sinner: *laughs*

Ray: So if God were to judge you according to the 10 commandments, would you be innocent or guilty? Would you go to heaven or hell?

Sinner: Hell

Ray: Does that concern you?

now that sounds very much like he is "going around handing out free tickets to heaven" Is that salvation?

And then the fundamentalists, along the same line, are now tuning in along this same wavelength of humanism. Until we find it something like this: "Accept Jesus so you can go to heaven! You don't want to go to that old, filthy, nasty, burnin g hell, when there is a beautiful heaven up there! Now come to Jesus so you can go to heaven!" And the appeal could b e as much to selfishness, as a couple of men sitting in a coffee shop, deciding they are going to rob a bank to get somet hing for nothing.

- Paris Reidhead, Ten Shekels and a Shirt

how do these two both fit together? it seems like a total contradiction?!

Re: Ray comfort / Humanism - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2005/4/22 23:32

Coops,

I don't really believe there is a contradiction here.

If we take Mr. Comforts words in the complete context of the message he preaches then what he is saying in your brief q uote is not an "appeal to selfishness". Rather it is an appeal for self-righteous men and women to see their true condition before a holy God, namely that they are clothed in dirty filthy rags without the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

I believe that a sinner must be brought to face his true condition before God. Until he is, the provision God has made in Christ Jesus will only be a joke and an affront to him.

Mr. Comfort promotes using the 10 commandments as a means of exposing this true condition of lost mankind. When a sinner, by the grace of God, does see his true condition, then the mercy and love of God in the provision of Jesus Christ is a precious thing and God is glorified as the sinner comes just as he is, without a single plea in his own defense other t han the work of Christ on the cross.

Nothing in my hands I bring
Simply to the cross I cling

In Christ,

Ron

Re: Ray comfort / Humanism, on: 2005/4/22 23:35

Good point

I am glad that someone is listening.

I think what Ray is trying to do is show sinners who 'think' they are ok that they are not ok.

But as to Ray statement:

Quote:
-----Ray: So if God were to judge you according to the 10 commandments, would you be innocent or guilty? Would you go to heaven or hell

It's obvious according to the word of God, both sinner and saint if they were judged according to the ten commandments we'd all be sent to hell, no one is righteous no not one.

Karl

Re: ray comfort/humanism - posted by geddingsm (), on: 2005/4/23 0:35

How Ray Comfort presents a decision to a person is what makes his approach different and not humanism. He does not tell the person to repeat after him and say the sinners prayer. If he sees conviction in a person he will ask if that person wants to pray themselves and after he will pray with them.

I have also seen him tell people to pray when they go home, that night, etc. if the person does not seem receptive at that time.

I think that is what makes him different from others just handing out tickets to heaven.

A quick listen to his sermon True and False Conversion will show you that.

geddingsm

Re: - posted by CJaKfOrEsT (), on: 2005/4/23 1:15

You'll also notice that Ray looks for brokenness before presenting the salvation message, preferring to leave sinners convicted, than to "hurry them through the birth canal". Ray's catch phrase is "Law to the proud. Grace to the humble". If that's humanistic, then I guess I'm a humanist....and so is God.

Re: Ray comfort / Humanism... - posted by coops (), on: 2005/4/23 9:53

Hey,
Thanks all for your fast responses! I know he does very well in all those areas to avoid humanism and has really stuck to the truth. (as you have all shown)... but I just don't understand the "hell" thing...
He has shown people their sin and how bad they are (which is brilliant), but then seems to proceed to tell them that they are going to hell if some action isn't taken. That is all well and good and the truth but...**here's somebody trembling because he's gonna be hurt in hell. And he has no sense of the enormity of his guilt and no sense of the enormity of his crimes and no sense of his insult against Deity. He's only trembling because his skin is about to be singed...**
now with ray comfort's they DO have the guilt, but is it only partly revealed?
There is room for, but no prompting, for the sinner to understand he was wronged **God**, and when a sinner sees the goodness and righteousness of God, they are brought to conviction and godly sorrow and repentance....
Ray does talk to people about that, after he has asked them if they are concerned about their eternal fate. They listen, but is it about a ticket to heaven or about meeting their redeemer?

Please understand I'm not taking a swing at ray comfort, I honestly have nothing against him, just want to understand so I can evangelise effectively!

God bless

Re: ray comfort - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/4/23 10:01

Another thread about this:

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id4768&forum34&start10&viewmodeflat&order1) Evangelism: Ten Shekels- Ray Comfort?

In Christ, Chanin

Re: comfort/humanism - posted by coops (), on: 2005/4/23 10:17

thanks, I just read it, but still can't find much on the point where he talks about going to hell. telling a sinner that the consequence of sin is hell is great.

but if you were saved as a result of ray comfort's evangelising, and i asked "why did you repent?" would the answer be "because I was going to hell" or "because I saw God for who He really is and His goodness showed my corruption..."

Godly sorrow isn't because of "oh im a sinner, im going to be judged" its because "i have wronged God"

doesn't it require some sort of revelation of God's righteousness and goodness? shouldn't that revelation be sought after for the right motives? (eg. not to escape hell)

Re: wretchedness - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/4/23 11:26

yes, I think people should have the revelation of how wretched they are without God- how they are nothing and He is everything.

I do believe that it takes revelation, their eyes of their understanding opened.

But I suppose there is a fear of God that goes along with it, fear of His wrath and judgement.

I am just typing thoughts...

I don't know. I am one of those "second experience" people. I thought i was saved because I had said a prayer- but years later realize that i fell away and was either not saved or lost it when I chose to rebel against God's will for me.

But this second experience was definitely a slow revelation from God that I was not obeying His word and was grieving Him.

In Him, Chanin

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2005/4/23 11:35

I've listened to a lot of Ray's teachings and he makes sure that when he witnesses to a person they know they have offended GOD and God's judgment is HELL. He is not using Christ as some way to escape something that will hurt you, but Christ is our only way to get forgiveness and that God and we may fellowship. Do you see the difference? One is focused on just a mere escape from hurt the other is for communion (or right relationship) with God.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2005/4/23 11:44

Be careful not to watch people's words too closely and find fault in the way they have said it, but look deep into their motives. I have fallen into the trap that if someone doesn't word the presentation of the Gospel "correctly" then it is error. This is not always so, you have to see their motives.. is it just to help humanity? or glorify God?

1Co 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

If the kingdom of God were in word then all of the gospels would be verbatim (exactly the same word for word). But they are not. They hold the same truth, same message, same Jesus, same Father, and same Holy Ghost. Just different words. What we (ME!) have to work on is using spiritual discernment instead of analyzing everything. I hope this doesn't come off as a rebuke, but this is what I have been dealing with in myself.

Re:, on: 2005/4/23 18:17

I think there is an attempt in the original post to say that Comfort offers and "easy-believism" salvation, if I am reading that right.

His approach is the exact *opposite* of easy believism. I, for one, find his approach refreshing.

Humanism is what we see in most evangelism today... God has a wonderful plan for your life, He can help you with your problems... etc.

Comfort says look, you're going to hell and you dont even know it.

I think that the original poster needs to listen to the whole message and technique of Ray Comfort because I have never gotten that impression of his presentation at all.

Krispy

Re: - posted by coops (), on: 2005/4/23 20:20

hey im gettig what you are all saying,

please understand i wasn't nit-picking etc, just honestly trying to understand it.

i have listened to/watched everything free from the livingwaters website and think his methods are great.

a few of you talked about the motives of the evangelist, i am sure they are good.

i wasn't talking about easy-believeism, but more enquiring into the motives of the sinner. they seem to be stirred by the fact hey are going to hell and want to know how to fix them problem. the script goes on:

Ray: does that concern you?

Sinner:Yes

Ray:What are you going to do about it?

Sinner: Get right (or something along those lines)

it almost looks like they are just going to do something to get their ticket out of heaven.

it seems it is half revealed: their sin is revealed, but where is the godly sorrow? doesn't it seem more like regret? regret says: "I have sinned, and the big guy up there is now going to send me to hell for it, I had better make peace with Him"

godly sorrow says: "I have sinned agaisnt God, even with my small revelation of who He is I see how bad I am and how good He is. I deserve hell, but I want to serve Him and love Him by giving my whole life over to Him"

Re: - posted by CJaKfOrEsT (), on: 2005/4/24 0:28

Quote:

coops wrote:

i wasn't talking about easy-believeism, but more enquiring into the motives of the sinner. they seem to be stirred by the fact hey are going to hell and want to know how to fix them problem. the script goes on:

Ray: does that concern you?

Sinner:Yes

Ray:What are you going to do about it?

Sinner: Get right (or something along those lines)

The next line goes like this:

Ray: That's not good enough, because you can't do right to overcome evil. (Here insert Jesus paying \$30,000 fine story)

Sinner: Oh wow, I see. He loves me so much.

Ray: Now you need to repent, which means to turn your back on your sin, and obey God, as the only condition of your salvation.

The point is, that he leads them into desperation over their condition, before preaching the gospel, which is almost exactly Reidhead's model.

Re: - posted by coops (), on: 2005/4/24 9:52

Quote:

-----he leads them into desperation over their condition, before preaching the gospel

click

i just got it. i misunderstood it and took the previous dialogue between comfort and the sinner as the attempted presentation of the gospel.

I now see that he doesn't even start with the gospel until after that, and it's usually not the part that you see much of in the training videos, i guess because from that point on we should know how to present the truth!

thanks for all your help