

News and Current Events :: Willow Creek Pastor Puts High Price Tag on New Vision

Willow Creek Pastor Puts High Price Tag on New Vision - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2010/10/12 11:54

Just a few years ago, Willow Creekers dedicated themselves to unleashing unprecedented levels of compassion for the broken world. The well-known megachurch has been active in training church leaders around the world, alleviating global poverty, and helping those affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa.

"We've stepped up on the global side," Hybels recognized. But the needs of their neighbors on their home turf are great.

While keeping its commitment to aiding people overseas, Willow Creek will be relocating and strengthening its ministry and expanding its care center to include legal aid services, counseling for women with unplanned pregnancies and a medical clinic.

"The facility that we're leasing off campus will not allow us to meet the growing and pressing needs of our community," he reported, noting that care center visits increased 89 percent in the last year. "Our leased facilities are maxed ...

read more: <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20101011/willow-creek-pastor-puts-high-pricetag-on-new-vision/>

Re: Willow Creek Pastor Puts High Price Tag on New Vision - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2010/10/12 11:55

What is sad is that the need for mankind is the eternal gospel not body salvation. I see this in north american, dentists, chiropractors, wellness centers, health foods.. all to just perseve and maintain and dying body. But the tragedgy is that soul is sick and has HIV, hell is real and all men need the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/12 12:05

Well, the way I read this news story is that Bill Hybles is looking at it as a form of outreach, with the end thereof being the salvation of souls. I'm not a big Bill Hybles fan. But it seems like it is a good work he's attempting to do with this.

Re: Willow Creek Pastor Puts High Price Tag on New Vision - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/12 13:34

Here are a few other quotes from the article,

Quote:
 -----Sharing his conviction on the need to care for others, Hybels told the congregation that when the "day of reckoning" comes, Christians will not be measured by when they raised their hand to accept Christ or how much they know about Christianity, but rather on compassion.

Quote:
 -----He added, "Jesus isn't talking about salvation by doing good works. Salvation is a gift. But what Jesus is saying : if that's really happened in you, if you've been redeemed from the inside out, the word of the Holy Spirit will be such that you will become my hands, my feet ... in the world."

I'm assuming he has Matt.25:31-46 in mind there. I believe there is much Scriptural validity in having a heart to reach out to the poor amongst us(not to say I endorse all of what Hybels is planning). I think too many of us have forsaken our God-given duty to minister to the poor in practical ways, and that is because we are afraid of falling into the trap of the "Social Gospel". And I would agree that that fear is a legitimate one because we know that the salvation of the soul is more important than the body. But I believe we have gone too far with that fear and neglected God's heart of compassion for the poor.

There are so many Scriptures that clearly declare that God is concerned with meeting the practical needs of the poor(Pr

ov.22:9; Prov.19:7; Isa.58:6-7; Ezek.16:49; Lk.3:11; Lk. 12:33; Lk.14:12-14). Yes, we should be careful not to emphasize social justice above Gospel proclamation. But especially for those of us who live in the west, I believe we should see more of this "Being the hands and feet of Jesus" among the poor. In having had the privilege of ministering among the poor for a number of years, I have found that looking out for their immediate practical needs (whether it's a plate of food, an item of clothing, etc.) often breaks down huge mental walls or barriers which causes them to be more open and receptive to the gospel. Too often the poor perceive Christian ministers as being money hungry greedy hypocrites. And for them to see us giving sacrificially to them is a powerful witness and softens their hearts to the gospel message. Not to say we need to first give them something before we witness to them. But if we have the means, why not? It does not cost much to give them a small meal or such. Well, I guess I'll get off my soap box and end with this Scripture; "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

Oracio
www.frontlinego.com

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/12 13:53

Amen. And even if your being merciful to them doesn't open a door to fully share the gospel with them, the mercy we show to them is still a demonstration of the power of the kingdom of God. I've helped minister at a soup kitchen before. Sometimes I've had the chance to share the gospel with others. Sometimes not. But either way, I believe I helped minister Christ to them in some measure.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/12 17:18

Yes, sometimes action speaks louder than words, though caution is needed in that sentiment. Some would focus too much on action with no gospel proclamation, and some would neglect love in action altogether. There is a sense in which they should go hand in hand when ministering to the poor, if we have the means or ability, which most of us do if we have a job.

Re: - posted by shadyg, on: 2010/10/12 18:01

Praise God! I'm glad to see the church leading the lost to salvation and being a haven of hope in a socially unjust world.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2010/10/12 18:16

I'm with Greg on this.

We say not to use entertainment to draw souls, so why do we say it's okay to use humanistic/carnal approaches?

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2010/10/12 18:24

and what is so "new" about this new vision any how?
Churches have been using this form of "evangelism" for years, and the church is more corrupt and without Christ than ever!

Just my 2 cents. :)

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Jesus didn't feed the 4000 until after they were starving after following Him out of desire and hunger for TRUTH for 3 days...

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/12 18:43

The Salvation Army was known for doing both. Social outreach and preaching the gospel went hand in hand with them. Wherever they did one, they did the other. And they had a touch of revival upon them.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2010/10/12 18:50

Its re-hashing the social gospel for the 1890-1910's.

People need to hear the gospel and yes lets also feed the poor but the soul comes first. This was the emphasis of the Salvation Army group before they backslide to the present condition.

Oh God help this generation, how we need revival. We all need it!

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/12 18:53

I'm not sure I see how this is a re-hashing of the social gospel? Could you be more specific of how what Bill Hybles is doing is simply that? Again, I'm not a big fan of Bill Hybles. But I don't see how having a big social agenda, which seems to be driven by a desire to share the gospel with others, is just another version of the social gospel. Keep in mind that Hybles has had a big heart for personal evangelism over the years. Indeed, he took time to write a book about it.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/12 18:55

"Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy."(Ezek.16:49)

"Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free And break every yoke? "Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"(Isa.58:6-7)

"And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed , since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14:12-14)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."(Matt.25:36-41)

And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."(Luke 3:11)

"He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor" (Prov.22:9).

Why don't we see much of this being applied in a biblical sense these days(meaning with the inclusion of the true gospel being proclaimed)? It seems that we have gotten too comfortable in our lavish lifestyles here in the west. And we have become too afraid to go into the dark parts of society to seek out the least of the lost. Yet we see Christ making an emphasis of that type of ministry in the gospels.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2010/10/12 19:31

Oracio Luke 14 is a parable about the Kingdom of God.

Mark 14:5-7

5For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

6And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

7For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

Loving Jesus is utmostly and foremostly needed.

John 6:48-51I am that bread of life.

49Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

There is a need to minister to the poor, but I think to those who are willing to hear the gospel. Rom 15:27

Jimmy: anybody can write a book!! and I'd watch that megachurch of yours..i'm just saying...:)

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/12 19:45

Quote:

-----There is a need to minister to the poor, but I think to those who are willing to hear the gospel. Rom 15:27

StarofGod I would have to highly disagree with you. We do not see Jesus placing a condition on people for Him to feed them. In John 6:26-27 we are told that He knew they followed Him with selfish motives, to get fed only, not to hear the Word. Yet he still fed them anyway. He said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in Heaven."Matthew 5:13.

When we tell the poor, "I will not help you unless you hear the gospel", we do not show the love of God, but rather we show our hard hearts toward our fellow neighbors. May the Lord help us to see the lost as He sees them, with compassion.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2010/10/12 19:49

ok, you feed the poor, I'm going to preach the gospel. :)

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/12 19:59

I understand that not all of us can physically participate in practical ministry to the poor due to certain limitations, but most of us can at least give of our resources to ministries that do that kind of outreach. If we do not even consider supporting worthy ministries, I would venture to say there is a serious problem in our relationship with God and our neighbor.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2010/10/12 20:08

Oracio, I am not saying it is wrong to give to certain ministries or to others. There is certainly a need, and it mostly certainly should be done. But when giving overrides the hearing of the Word, it is imbalanced. Anyone can share the gospel, there is no excuse. Lost people are in our path every day, unless you are unable to leave your home, and then there is an occasional wrong number telephone call, or a knock at the door. Prime opportunity to share the gospel!

Be blessed.

Michelle

Re: - posted by hoohou () , on: 2010/10/12 22:20

Michelle, you may have already but try giving Jackie Pullinger's "God uses the Foolish Things" (or something like that) a listen. She gives an excellent message on this very topic.

Jesus said that whatsoever you do to the least of people you do to Him. I think that the gospel would be much more readily accepted if we could show people the love of Christ and let Him reveal the sin. There are stories all through the bible of this. Jesus healed and they believed. Peter and John didn't have any money but they freely gave. Jesus had compassion and healed the multitudes. The truth must be told, surely, but while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. That's a pretty good gospel there. 2,000 years before little ole me knew Him He died for me. Maybe we could give someone some medicine so that in a couple years they'll remember and come in a time of spiritual distress to receive the Cure for what really ails them.

Just my thoughts, God bless.

Re: - posted by learn () , on: 2010/10/12 22:26

Bless you hoohou. I was thinking of Jackie Pullinger and Jesus healing people (which some of these healed people later coming to Christ) too. Jackie went overseas to preach the gospel but nobody would listen. It was not until that she came to the Lord and God told her to live with them to take care of their needs that souls were saved. When we are physically starving for food, shelter etc, our pressing and immediate needs are what gets our attention. If you or your kid is starving, you wouldn't be interested in hearing about some future event but you would certainly be interested if they can help provide the next meal to you. God knows it and He takes care of our needs, that's why at times He uses this way to spread His gospel.

There are other ways too to spread the gospel and sometimes its the direct way ie in preaching the gospel upfront.

Re: - posted by StarofGOD () , on: 2010/10/12 22:46

ok you guys win. :)

on second thoughts...

Have you brothers ever listened to Paris Reidhead?

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2010/10/12 23:55

Quote:

-----ok, you feed the poor, I'm going to preach the gospel. :)

What makes you think the two have to be separate things?

Re: - posted by Oracio () , on: 2010/10/13 0:24

EverestoSama wrote:

Quote:

-----What makes you think the two have to be separate things?

Amen. Jimmy, since you are really good at writing articles I have a request; could you write one on this topic, or pray about it?

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2010/10/13 0:45

Edited on account of being blind

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/13 1:01

Yes I meant KingJimmy. Sorry for not being clear on that.
But my Amen was in response to your comment.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2010/10/13 1:14

Haha, when I looked at your comment "Amen. Jimmy," I just realized that my brain had switched around the comma and period. My bad, man.

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2010/10/13 4:19

Yes, I have and one can't just rely on his knowledge/experience alone. God gives people different experience/revelation/insight to minister to different people and in different parts of the world.

The thing is there are many ways to spread the gospel ie bring people to Christ. They are not exclusive or only 1 way. Many times it's a combination. The gospel can be spread directly ie preaching the gospel and/or through healing people and/or through feeding people and/or through going through the pain/suffering as the others.

Go to Gospel for Asia website, Soul survivor for China (do not have the link anymore for this but others may have it), Brother Andrew's Open Doors website and his books, Richard Wurmbrand's Voice of Martyrs website, Tortured for Christ book, Corrie Ten Boom, Amy Carmichael and many more and see how the people were brought to Christ.

Re: Willow Creek Pastor Puts High Price Tag on New Vision - posted by CeaseNot, on: 2010/10/13 7:28

The following is a good post. The rest of the post can be read at:

<http://preachingjesus.wordpress.com/2010/01/12/ecumenical-apostasy-the-catholic-church-and-the-emergent-social-justice-gospel/>

THE EMERGENT SOCIAL JUSTICE GOSPEL

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

I use the term “Emergent” social justice gospel because this seems to be the new “cause” of those in the emergent post-modern church. In all reality though, the social justice gospel is something organizations like the Catholic Church have preached for quite a while. This new gospel no longer focuses on preaching the truths about salvation and the kingdom of God as the primary focus but instead focuses on solving social issues and bringing “justice” to the downcast, the poor, and those that are marginalized by society. And in some ways it’s even hard to quantify because in some circles it even extends to caring for the environment, going green, and combating global warming. This other gospel moves from primarily being horizontal between God and man to a vertical Gospel that is more between man and man. It is no longer a message to be declared to those who are perishing but is now a movement based on righting the wrongs and injustices in the world in the name of Jesus.

What I have found in the attitude of those who preach this new “gospel” is that they believe and act as if they have found the “new” progressive way of living out faith in Jesus Christ. That this is the revolutionary way of following Jesus. It’s no more about that outdated method of preaching the Gospel to sinners because they have now found out what the gospel really is...bringing justice to the world. To them it is a way to engage society and show the love of Jesus by caring for the things they care for. It is more about what you do than what you believe. It is a call to “transform” society by bringing about justice and taking up the causes of the world and making them causes of Christ. In some ways the way it’s presented can sound so good. After all, what’s wrong with wanting to end child labor, or help the environment (going green), or feeding the poor in Africa, or fixing the world housing problem...ect. These all seem like noble causes.

es BUT are these gospel causes? Are these the activities our God has called us to labor in and for? Has God called us to walk hand in hand with the world, take up their causes, and solve them in the name of Jesus Christ? Or, is the bible correct in that it calls us to something much more glorious – reconciling men to God, helping men find everlasting life, and warning them to flee the wrath to come?

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/10/13 8:11

Quote:

Jimmy, since you are really good at writing articles I have a request; could you write one on this topic, or pray about it?

Sure. I'll be happy to do such. Lord willing, I will put something together in the next day or two.

Re: - posted by hoohou (), on: 2010/10/13 8:55

CeaseNot, you said, "These all seem like noble causes BUT are these gospel causes? Are these the activities our God has called us to labor in and for? Has God called us to walk hand in hand with the world, take up their causes, and solve them in the name of Jesus Christ?"

Jesus said in Matthew 25:31-46 31"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

32"All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

33and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

36naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

37"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?

38'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

39'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

41"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

42'for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;

43'I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

44"Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

45"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

46"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Our very salvation is a charity from God. No, we cannot cease from telling people the truth of God's Word, but isn't that Word not preached as effectively by simply showing them what it means instead of telling them?

I think what happens is that we develop a caricature of what an opposing view really believes. I think the solution to this little delima is to aim for the center, which is Christ. Show people His love through charity, but then we must tell them who He is. How are they to know if no one tells them?

Re: - posted by hoohoou (), on: 2010/10/13 9:02

StarofGod, I've listened to 10 Shekels and a Shirt. It is probably the sermon that has had the biggest influence on my life. I'm not really sure where you're going with that question though. Maybe just a question?

If you're speaking of humanism, and his idea that the chief end of being is the happiness of man, I don't think it means that we can't try to make people happy by meeting a need. While I agree wholeheartedly with his premise we can't forget that Jesus did die for US. We cannot forget the intense love that Jesus has for US. Just like he says in the sermon, we don't do it for them, we do it for Jesus.

I hope I didn't write a rebuttal where one wasn't needed. I hate when people get on here and verbally assault someone and have misunderstood the original comment. If I have please forgive me.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/13 10:01

CeaseNot, I understand that concern and agree that it is legitimate. But these heretical groups or movements do not have a love of the truth in them. I do not think its fair to lump together all Christians who have a heart for the poor and outcasts under that umbrella of heresy or apostacy. Despite the fact that these groups are focusing too much on social justice, we still can't escape the biblical mandate to look out for the poor among us. I believe that they are correct in having a concern for social justice, but they are unbalanced in that they exclude preaching the true gospel of Jesus Christ which is more important. My argument is why can't we do both, while focusing primarily on the gospel? Why do we have to leave it to heretics to look out for the poor while we passively neglect them and make all kinds of excuses for not caring? For many, I believe it reveals a cold-heartedness.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/10/13 10:55

Thanks Jimmy.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2010/10/13 11:32

Quote:
-----I think what happens is that we develop a caricature of what an opposing view really believes. I think the solution to this little delima is to aim for the center, which is Christ. Show people His love through charity, but then we must tell them who He is. How are they to know if no one tells them?

Beautifully said, Hoohoou.

Where I live now, I don't even have the physical ability to preach the Gospel, as I can't speak a lick of the language as relative to what most would consider a proper Gospel message. I mean, I can say Jesus's Name, but that's about it. However this doesn't stop me from actively trying to preach the Gospel. I'm just not able to use words yet. What a terrible waste of time I'd have to account for to God, if I waited until my Japanese was even manageable before I attempted to "preach the Gospel".

They may not understand English here, but they most certainly can understand the love of Christ.

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2010/10/13 19:48

Good post on Oracio's answer to CeaseNot.

Jesus did not spend all his time just preaching the gospel. He spent a fair bit of time just healing people and we do see that some did turn to Christ after he healed. Are we then to say that Jesus's primary aim was not to save people from their sins? We wouldn't say that and similarly we cannot lump the heretical groups and the true believers together when they happen to do 'humanist act' of caring for the sick, poor etc.

Re: - posted by CeaseNot, on: 2010/10/14 6:13

Please don't misunderstand me. There is no doubt that charity must indeed be evident in a believer's life. I say amen to your posts. I came across this article and thought it beneficial, however, if the gospel is preached and it is coupled with charity then praise God yet if it is replaced with charity then that would be a concern.. Controversy was not meant to arise in any way so I apologise if it has.

Re: - posted by hoohou (), on: 2010/10/14 6:46

CeaseNot, I wasn't trying to spark any controversy either. I hope I didn't come across as doing that. The written word has a way of conveying emotion that isn't there. My response was intended to be a "your right, but what about this" type of response. So many times I read threads, watch a group of people debate a topic and think to myself that they are both right.

At all times I have to be careful that I don't go overboard on any doctrine. I heard a quote, I think from David Legge, that says, "Don't let your convictions become restrictions to what God would have you do". I think we all do that quite a bit. Majoring on the minors, swallowing camels and what not.

Anyway, I wasn't trying to jump on the pile or anything. I just wanted more of the picture revealed. May we all find God through Jesus and just do what He wants.

Matt

Re: - posted by CeaseNot, on: 2010/10/14 6:48

Amen Matt!

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2010/10/14 6:59

Don't worry CeaseNot. I don't think any controversy was raised but perhaps a better/deeper understanding of how God works is shared. :)