

General Topics :: Open Air: Handling Hecklers

Open Air: Handling Hecklers, on: 2005/12/29 23:35

I am currently working on writing out as many answers to the common questions/heckles you get in the open-air.

Heckle: How could God send His own children to hell?

Answer: God does not send His own children to hell. Rather, the children of the devil go to be with their father when they die, and the children of God go to be with their Father.

The assumption that everyone is a child of God is false. Though all are part of the creation of God, not all are children of God. Some are "children of the devil". Jesus said to religious hypocrites that they were just like their "father the devil". Paul said to a sorcerer "you son of the devil".

The popular and modern belief that everyone is God's child flies in the face of the gospel itself. The gospel is that "through faith in Jesus Christ" we have been granted "the right to become children of God"; that if we are led by the Spirit of God then we are sons of God; that we have "received the Spirit of adoption" to the family of God. But until someone is "born again" into God's family, they are in the family of the devil.

There is a way to tell whose child you are. The bible tells us that the answer is manifest by what we do; if we do not practice righteousness we are not righteous, if we do not love we are not Christians. If we sin, meaning continue in sin, we are of the devil, and we know that "the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience."

The greatest opportunity God has given fallen man is to be reconciled back to Him through Jesus Christ. We all have the opportunity to become children of God if we turn away from our sin, and turn to Jesus Christ.

Scriptures: 1John 3:10, John 8:44, Galatians 3:26, John 1:12, Romans 8:15, John 3:3, 1 John 3:10, 1 John 3:8, Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 3:6

Heckle: You can't repent! You can't stop sinning!

Answer: There are some children (and adults) that will say they can't live without their video games. Cigarette smokers will say they can't live without their cigarettes. When you love and cherish something, you can't imagine living without it. And often sinners will say that they can't live without their sin; that they can't repent. And the reason is because they love their sin.

I always ask them to be specific, to tell me exactly which sin it is that they can't repent from; just which sin is it that you can't stop doing. The real problem is not that they can't stop but that they won't stop. The drunkard does not will to put down the bottle. The fornicator does not will to live pure. But Christ said, "Unless you repent...you will perish"

We are told that God does not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear, and that God always provides a way out. What we need to do is always take the way out. If we love God we will keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome. We even have the ability to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and be more than a conqueror if we allow Christ to strengthen us.

Some say, "Do I really have to give up all my sin?" And of course the answer is no, you can keep sinning if you want. You don't have to give up ALL your sin. You don't have to give up getting drunk. You don't have to give up fornication. You don't have to give up blasphemy. You don't have to give up all your sin. And you don't have to go to heaven either. You can go to hell if you want. You can abide under God's wrath if you want. Or you can repent and be reconciled back to God.

To the heart that loves God and hates sin, it brings much peace and comfort to know that you can obey God and that you don't have to sin against Him! Just as possible as it is for us to sin, it is just as possible for us not to sin. So stop loving the sin that hates you, cast away your sin before your sin has you cast away!

Scriptures: Luke 13:3, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 John 5:3, 2 Corinthians 10:5.

Heckle: You're not very tolerant!

Answer: Modern society seems to not know the definition of marriage, nor the definition of love. Many have added a new description of love to 1 Corinthians chapter 13 - "love is tolerant". There is a reason why it's actually not there, because love is actually intolerant.

Though love is patient, it's patient for change while tolerance means acceptance. A liar wants you to accept his lying, a thief wants you to accept his thievery, an adulterer wants you to accept his adultery, a blasphemer wants you to accept his blasphemy, an idolater wants you to accept his idolatry, a drunkard wants you to accept his drunkenness, etc. And none of those things ought to be tolerated by God's people!

Though some intolerance leads to killing (which is not what I am trying to promote by any means), biblical intolerance leads to change. The intolerance that leads to killing is based on hatred for individuals while the intolerance that leads to change is based on love for individuals.

If I have a child that grows up to be a drug addict, (biblical terminology is sorcerer) would it be loving or unloving for me to tolerate his destructive choice? Of course, it would be unloving. In that situation, love is demonstrated by intolerance.

Likewise God does not want you to be tolerant of your sin. He does not buy into this tolerant teaching. God refuses to tolerate your sin that is why "God commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness". But in His longsuffering and patience, He has given you time to repent. You must repent today because tomorrow may be too late.

Scriptures: Acts 17:30-31

Heckle: The bible says you're not to judge!

Answer: There are two types of judgment in the bible. There is hypocritical judgment, which Jesus condemns (Matt 7). And there is righteous judgment, which Jesus commanded (John 7:24).

Matthew chapter 7 is talking about the qualifications for judging. Jesus clearly says in verse 5 that "hypocrites" are not qualified to judge. He says you must remove the plank in your own eye before removing anything from someone else's. But once a Christian has repented and cleaned up his life, he is then qualified to call others to repent and to clean up their lives too.

John 7:24 says we are to "judge with righteous judgment." Jesus said, "My judgment is righteous." (John 5:30) A Christian is not to declare his own personal judgment but rather he is to declare the righteous judgment of God!

So what is righteous judgment? God's judgment is that adulterers, fornicators, idolaters, homosexuals, thieves, murderers, blasphemers, covetous, drunkards, etc will have their part in the burning lake. (Revelations 21:8) That is the righteous judgment of God.

Because many do not want to hear the righteous judgment of God, they attempt to say "judge not". They did the same to Lot in Sodom in Genesis 19:9. But God's righteous judgment is coming, and so God's righteous judgment must be declared!

Scriptures: Matthew 7:1-5, John 7:24, John 5:30, Revelations 21:8. Genesis 19:9

Re: Open Air: Handling Hecklers - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/12/29 23:52

This is some really good stuff Jesse! I love the way you reference the bible so much. It's not your opinions but God's.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2005/12/30 11:55

It amazes me how time and time and time and time again you run into the same heckles and questions no matter where you are while OA preaching.

Re:, on: 2005/12/30 12:03

Just last night I was thinking Im going to ask Jesse how he handles the hecklers! No, kidding!! I have a heart for evangelism, much to my husbands dismay but Im not sure yet what God wants me to do. At times I want to invite someone to come with me but that never works out for me because I am very spontaneous, I guess you could call it. Plans mess me up! I usually just make up my mind to do something and follow the leading of the Lord. If someone says to me "lets meet at such and such a place" I can't handle that. It makes me feel like Im walking with a ball and chain. Is that why you preach alone?

Im very much interested in what questions people ask ect..because I hate getting caught with my guard down but I know God uses us in our weakness.

Re:, on: 2005/12/30 13:25

I believe consistency is the key to building up a team. I go out with a team that meets every Friday and Saturday night at a certain place at a certain time. Because of the consistency, the team has grown dramatically.

It's also good to pray for other laborers. I used to go out alone a great deal, until I started to pray for other laborers. Then Christians at Church I didn't even know started coming to me asking when I was going out next because they wanted to go.

My advice is prayer and consistency.

Re: - posted by Smokey (), on: 2005/12/30 14:57

Happy New Year to all.

I believe that the reason we continually run into the same questions when we witness, is because they come from the same source. Our enemy continues to question God's Word, and draws from secular understanding to challenge our witness. It is sufficient to respond with scripture, just as Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we are anointed to preach, and so familiar with scripture that we can answer all questions. May God continue to bless all who preach His true Word.. I believe you are on the cutting edge of God's last days ministry.

LOL Greg

Re:, on: 2005/12/30 15:34

Im wondering why many open-air preachers don't have many altar calls. Also, I don't hear many of them talk about the cross or the way to salvation. Most seem to only preach the ten commandments and then you see people walking away in condemnation with no way out. They will a lot of times say "but Jesus paid the price for you on the cross," but then they don't mention how to receive that gift.

I've listened to a lot of open-air preaching on the internet. If I did open-air preach I do believe in convincing people that they are sinners but Im not sold on that program that's going around. I have my own way that I feel led to share the gospel. Do most open-air preachers use "The Way of the Master?"

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2005/12/30 15:59

Rebecca, Lets remember that "altar calls" are man made. I'm not against it at all. We could get into J.Edwards sermons, Wesley, Whitfield, etc..

Finney might not have a altar call for days. CH. Spurgeon never had one in our terms. Finney was also the one who started "altar calls". What we need is to stick to the Bible, and examine it. We read no altar calls except by the Sprirt of God convicted men.

"What must I do to be saved" was the cry with no "altar calls". One of our problems in this age is we depend too much of OUR ability to lead people to Christ, and not "by the Sprirt".

Re:, on: 2005/12/30 16:28

Your right there we don't really need an altar call but I still don't hear alot preached about what we must do to be saved.

Romans 10:9,10- ...confess with thy mouth and believe in thine heart,thou shalt be saved.

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2005/12/30 16:43

The open air preaching I have done and seen others do that they'll have people in the audience who are christians to individually talk further about Christ. I'd have christians spread out watching others reaction, and as they walk away someone would approach them. These things you don't SEE alot because the focus is usually on the preacher.

Re: - posted by groh_frog, on: 2005/12/30 17:06

It's about true and false conversion.

We can only pick the fruit that's ripe. And the only way for the fruit to ripen is through conviction. Basically, they must know sin, and know that they deserve condemnation before they can repent and be saved. It's giving the tools to know what Christ was about- otherwise he's just another religious figure in history.

Grace and Peace...

Re:, on: 2005/12/30 17:55

Jesse,

What exactly does the team do when you go out? Does everyone preach or do some preach and others follow up or does everyone just go out and do their thing?

I used to go out to the flea market with our church and pass out tracts but they had their own way of doing things and I'm sort of a non-conformist you might say. I was at a Walmart once and I was so filled with the spirit that I felt like preaching in the parking lot. I get these uncontrollable urges to preach all the time.

I had a word spoken over me once that I was going to put my foot on the enemies neck and do a whole lot of damage. I've been doing alot of praying and I keep feeling those birthing pains! I don't really know what to do but keep praying and wait on God.

Re: - posted by mileslewis (), on: 2005/12/30 22:22

These messages changed my life...

Hells Best Kept Secret

<http://goodpeople.witnesses.today.org/media/Hells%20Best%20Kept%20Secret.mp3>

True and False Conversions

<http://goodpeople.witnesses.today.org/media/True%20and%20False%20Conversion.mp3>

I would say I was truly converted largely because of the truth in these teachings. I was pretty radically converted as a false convert, one who was absolutely convinced I was saved, but in reality I was not. There is such a danger in convincing others that they have been born again if they bear no fruit. I have seen so many whose ends are worse than when they

hey started because of having a false sense of security due to a false gospel; A gospel that doesn't seek to convert, but simply to get a "decision".

Miles Lewis

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2005/12/30 22:44

Rebecca,

Have you considered volunteering at a Crises Pregnancy Center? I promise you will hear all the excuses Jesse discussed here plus....and you will hear of all kinds of wickedness known to man or imagination. But be sure the CPC you volunteer for considers evangelism important. AND you must feel the call of the Holy Spirit to work there.

Just a suggestion,
ginnyrose

Re:, on: 2005/12/31 8:22

Thanks ginnyrose,

I have done alot of evangelism in the past at abortion clinics and was arrested and thrown in jail with my mom. We were arrested for trespassing. We had a great time though singing songs until they let us go. I miss my mom she passed away 10 years ago. She was one fiery woman. She got up and rebuked the pastor in a huge baptist church because he decided on supporting pro-choice. Anything God has me do I will always keep her in my mind.

Re: Being equipped, on: 2005/12/31 13:19

Smokey wrote:

Quote:
----- It is sufficient to respond with scripture, just as Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan. It is therefore of the utmost importance that **we** are anointed to preach, and so familiar with scripture that **we can** answer all questions.

How do you reconcile the above with Paul's words:

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20) (emphasis mine);

and

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and *I in him*, the same bringeth forth much fruit: *for without me ye can do nothing*?" (John 15:5) (emphasis mine)

The question is: are *we using Christ* as a tool for good works, or is *He using us* as tools for good works? This is a very significant distinction in light of the Lord's words in Matthew 7:22-23, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, *have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* And then will I profess unto them, *I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" (emphasis mine)

In Christ-

Re: Open Air: Handling Hecklers - posted by CyberCarbon (), on: 2005/12/31 14:22

Heckle: How could God send His own children to hell?

If you are, His children with will never see hell.

Heckle: You can't repent! You can't stop sinning!

By definition you repent you have stopped sinning, if you are sinning you have not repented.

Heckle: Your not very tolerant!

If you think, I am not tolerant wait until you meet God. I did not write the rules, God did.

Heckle: The bible says you're not to judge!

First, I ask them if they are a student of the bible, if not I tell them, I do not judge, I discern, God Judges if you read more of the bible you will know why.

Re:, on: 2005/12/31 14:44

A Treatise On Open-air Preaching
by Charles Spurgeon

www.brojed.org/spurgeon.html

Re:, on: 2006/1/6 15:34

I keep thinking of that statement on the Revival Hymn: "I didn't send you out there for them I sent you out there for me !..."

I have recently begun to really believe that.If we concentrate on the response too much thats our pride.Aren't we out t here to proclaim.It doesn't matter if your preaching open air or to someone at work.

I have been witnessing to two people that say their christians but they are always talking about partying and getting drunk.They claim to be born again and it was so hurtful it started really getting to me.I felt let down.Instead of being wounded and deciding not to talk to them again I should have said:"I thought you were a christian???"

Isn't that what were supposed to do is proclaim and stop worrying about the response?God didn't send us out there for them He sent us out there for Him!

Re:, on: 2006/1/28 22:40

Heckle: You are being divisive!

Answer: Do you know who has caused more division throughout history more than any other man? Jesus Christ! And that was His plan! "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division". (Luke 12:51) There are many biblical examples of Christ causing division: John 7:24, John 9:16, John 10:19.

This belief that unity is always virtue while division is always vice is wrong; sometimes it's the other way around. There are certain things worth dividing over. If there are men who are choosing to continue in sin, while there are other men who want to obey God - that is a division which is worth it!

It is God's will that we "be saved from this perverse generation." (Acts 2:40). God wants there to be a division between the sinners and the Saints, and that is what I have come here for, to call people to come out from among the sinners. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His Law he meditates day and night." (Ps 1:1-2)

A Christian may be guilty of virtuous division, but sinners are guilty of vice-full division. You are separated from God because of your sin, and that division will cost you your soul and bring eternal suffering in hell.

While Christ did come to divide men from other men, he also came to bring reconciliation between men and God. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Cor 5:19). Through Jesus Christ, because of His work on the cross, you can be reconciled back to God and no longer be separated from Him. The decision is yours to make.

Scriptures: Luke 12:51, John 7:24, John 9:16, John 10:19, Acts 2:40, Ps 1:1-2, 2 Cor 5:19

Heckle: What about those who have never heard the name Jesus? Do they go to hell?

Answer: Ignorance is not a free ticket to heaven. If it were, then missionaries do great damage by reaching out to the heathen. If they are already going to Heaven because of their ignorance, then leave them in ignorance!

If ignorance were a free ticket to heaven, then I would propose that we burn every bible, every Church, and never speak the name of Christ again! That way the next generation after us can grow up in complete ignorance, and hence go to heaven because of their ignorance.

No, ignorance is not a free ticket to heaven. The narrow road, the only road to God is Christ and Christ alone. (Matt 7:14, John 14:6)

God will judge each man, whether American, Chinese, African, or Arabian according to the knowledge that he has. And the knowledge that all men have, regardless of their country, is a conscience. And the conscience is the Law written upon their hearts. (Romans 2:15)

If there is a man who lives his whole life without ever sinning, then he has no sin in which to be accountable to or punished for. But we know that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

Sin is the foundational basis for condemnation, while Christ is the foundational basis for salvation (Romans 6:23). There will not be a single soul sent to hell for not knowing about Jesus, rather souls are sent to hell for their sin. But there will also not be a single soul going to heaven who does not know Jesus.

And that is why you ought to accept him today. You are not in ignorance. You know about Christ and what He did to save you from death, hell, and sin. What you must do is turn from your sins and turn to Christ. Then, if the Lord wills, become a missionary to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Scriptures: Matt 7:14, John 14:6, Romans 2:15, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

Re:, on: 2006/1/28 23:11

Thats really strange that someone would tell you your being divisive.Of course your being divisive.Either someone chooses to serve God or not.It doesn't matter what religion were all divided.

Jesus said that this gosple would be preached to the ends of the earth so I believe everyone gets a chance to hear because God is just, so I know they do.

Re: - posted by JFEdgar (), on: 2006/1/29 1:28

Jesse,

I would be interested if you could write out a few common heckles that you get from professing Christians who believe what you are doing is wrong, and the answers you have for them. I have heard a few, but am often caught off guard when I am being hindered by someone who claims Christ.

Re:, on: 2006/1/29 14:37

I'll do that. Usually it's the whole "be a friend not a preacher" type thing. "People need relationships, not preaching."

What kind of things do they usually say to you?

Re: - posted by JFEdgar (), on: 2006/1/29 15:38

Yes, generally the same thing. Also people who believe that preaching the law for the conviction of sin is wrong. They tell you that you are condemning people and that Jesus' message was love. Ofcourse, this is a wrong understanding of what love truly is (lev 19:17).

Re: - posted by CJaKfOrEsT (), on: 2006/1/29 16:39

Quote:

Rebecca5 wrote:

Im wondering why many open-air preachers don't have many altar calls.Also, I don't hear many of them talk about the cross or the way to salvation. Most seem to only preach the ten commandments and than you see people walking away in condemnation with no way out.

Rebecca,

I know that someone has already mentioned the fruit needing to be ripe, but I guess to clarify on how to know a fruit is ripe, may I share the following principle? God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble (James 3).

Why? Because there can be no salvation without repentance. Be careful to never mistake admitting to sinning with repentance. I notice you mentioned a Paris Reidhead quote from Revival Hymn. May I suggest listening to his sermon ("<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid40>") The right use of the law and ("<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid281>") Except ye repent as an concise response to your question? The first brings a little clarity about what actually happened in Africa and how he came to realise that the native "knew all about hell". It's quite chilling. The second clearly lays out the principle of repentance requiring the grace of God.

I have spend several hours counselling well meaning evangelists who become frustrated by the lack of "converts" when allowing the Law to be the schoolmaster to lead people to Christ. Many, sadly, revert to false means.

The reality we have to face, is that it's not about using the 10 Commandments in evangelism as a technique to stimulate

e a response to an altar call, but that it's preaching the Law that "is the schoolmaster". We are not the schoolmaster and any attempt to be so, is to block of God's only perscribed means of producing repentance in a human being, before it ha s completed it's work. This is one of the greatest acts of arrogance on the part of a human being, for it displays to God th at our way is better than His. The Law brings the revelation of God's values. He can only save those who have accepted their own wretchedness and cling to Him for mercy.

Quote:

-----"How deep, the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He would send His only Son
To make a **wretch His treasure**"

...

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a **wretch like me**"

It is grace that saves, not evangelism ("Twas **grace that taught** my heart to fear and **grace that fear relieved**"). Evange lism's goal is to arrange the introduction. We have to keep it in the front of our minds that sinners are enemies of God, a nd therefore they are our enemies, too. However, we are then to obey God's commandment to love our enemies, just as He loves His (John 3:16). Any attempt to do the second without the first will lead to a false sentimental kind of love that f alls far short of God's love. This will lead to us trying to protect a "good man from a bad God".

I love Vance Hanver's quote on John 3:16 -

Quote:

-----"If we love the world the way God loves the world, we'll never have to worry about loving the world the way we shouldn't"

I hope that helps.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/30 10:57

If a "Christian" is heckling me and I feel that they might actually be a Christian, and not just a religious person, I usually ask them, "Do you love for the Gospel to be preached?" If they say no, then surely they are not saved. If they say yes, then I ask them why they are promoting people going to hell by stopping me from preaching the Gospel to lost sinners. "Have you no compassion? What if someone out here is going to Hell? Don't they need to hear the Gospel? Well, at this very moment if they were to walk by they would not hear the Gospel, but hear you trying to stop the Words of Life."

If they really are a Christian, they should be convicted at the thought of stopping the Gospel from being preached. My opinion, it's very hypocritical to call yourself a Christian and be against or hinder the Gospel from being preached.