

Teaching Sound Doctrine

Politically Correct Preaching/Teaching Pt. 2

Politically Incorrect Preacher/Teacher/Christian

I mean no disrespect of God's holy word by the preceding absurdities of the last lesson, but even though these instances seem ridiculous, they do happen in the body of Christ. The Bible, of course, is not politically correct in nature and God intended it to guide man away from serving self to being a fully obedient citizen of the heavenly kingdom. Below, the same issues will be addressed utilizing, not the opinions of man, but the Bible only.

P.I. Repentance

The scribes and the Pharisees loathed the idea that Jesus ate and drank with tax collectors and sinners (Mark 2:16). He responds to their disposition of heart in the proceeding verse when he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Mark 2:17). Which of us can honestly answer we have no transgressions to repent of? 1 John 1:8-10: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." We are commanded to renounce a life of selfishness and to follow after the Guide to eternal life. Matthew 16:24: "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'"

P.I. Conviction of Sin

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23) and it is only when we take responsibility for our actions that we can ever hope for eternal glory.

P.I. In Regards To Controversial Issues

It is true a man of God should not be contentious (1 Tim. 6:3-4), and should attempt to live peaceably with all (Rom. 12:18), but not to the point of watering down the gospel message. The word of God should be preached in its entirety similar to Paul in addressing the Ephesian elders, “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). A gospel preacher is ultimately answerable to the Lord and is not judged righteous because of his favor among men. 1 Thessalonians 2:4: “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”

P.I. Character Protection Program

The apostles Paul and John found it necessary to refer to false teachers not in some ambiguous way, but by name, so no doubt was left in the minds of the brethren. This is a serious practice but nonetheless beneficial to the purity of the church. A child of God should warn others of impending danger and that includes identifying those who would lead people down the path of destruction. The Holy Spirit, through the hands of inspired writers, had no problem in exposing individuals who were of this character and neither should we. Hymenaeus (1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:17-18) Alexander (1 Tim. 1:19-20) Philetus (2 Tim. 2:17-18) Diotrophes (3 John 9-10)

P.I. Rules of Fellowship

We find ourselves guilty of the sin of presumption when we circumvent the will of God in regards to the topic of fellowship or any other issue where he has spoken. The Scriptures are very clear in identifying and noting those guilty of erroneous teaching. Romans 16:17: “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them” (ASV). “And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” (2 Thess. 3:14-15). A brother or sister is not mean spirited for heeding the commandments of God in reference to association and refutation of error. Ephesians 5:11: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” “Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear” (1 Tim. 5:20).

P.I. Job Security

Paul warned Timothy “there would come a time when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching

ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Tim. 4:3-4). But he also gave him the words to succeed as a faithful evangelist. “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2). And be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Tim. 4:5). The gospel preacher who is constantly concerned about losing wages due to the fact he may step on someone’s toes should find another profession. Paul was not motivated by personal gain but by the spirit of necessity and would have preached for free if need be. 1 Corinthians 9:16-18: “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.”

P.I. Resources

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12).

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Conclusion

Whether you are an elder, preacher or teacher, I would exhort you to contemplate the seriousness of these lessons and to either continue to stay the course or resolve yourself to stand more boldly for the truth.