

WHY A CONFRONTATIONAL MINISTRY TO APOSTASY?



I have always been very active in open-air evangelism. To this day, our church preaches the gospel at barrooms, various college campuses, and wherever and whenever we sense the leading of God's Spirit. However, in the past several years we have also felt compelled to challenge the religious deception of our day. We have preached at large, so-called Christian rock concerts, crusades, and events (Acquire The Fire, RWRS, RTRT, etc.). We have confronted popular preachers like Benny Hinn, Joyce Myers, Paula White, Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, etc.. We do so because we believe confronting and exposing "misrepresentations of Jesus" is a vital, but forgotten part of the Great Commission. Remember, Jesus commanded...

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

-Matthew 28:20

Likewise, we believe it is a necessary element of Apostolic ministry. Paul, describing his ministry at Ephesus, declared...

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

- Acts 20:29-31

I know that many question the motive and effectiveness of such seemingly unorthodox and "religiously incorrect" endeavors. However, when we examine the Word of God we see this pattern of ministry demonstrated throughout history. God sent prophets to the nation of Israel when she was wayward. The Lord Jesus, Himself, publicly confronted the false religious system and leaders of His day (Matthew 23). The Apostle Paul was found daily disputing in the synagogues. In each of the above circumstances, God used human instruments to confront the erroneous "status quo" in an attempt to recover His chosen people to His original purpose. In times past, when men exalted religious tradition above the Word of God, spiritual action was often swift and passionate. Thus, whenever God's ordained vessel, either the nation of Israel under the old covenant, or the Church under the new, mars the truth and character of God through religious tradition, God generally intervenes. As Christians, we are given a charge by the Holy Ghost through both the Apostle Paul and Jude to confront that which is false and earnestly contend for the pure apostolic faith (II Tim 4:1-4; Jude 3-4).

We realize most will disagree and few will understand our reasoning for such actions. Likewise, most will view our position as extreme, legalistic and Pharisaical. Nevertheless, we are constrained by love to follow Christ outside the camp of modern Christendom and bear this glorious reproach for the glory of God and the love of those we deem to be in spiritual danger. In our estimation, the modern church, especially the charismatic/seeker-sensitive model, is utterly apostate and through its influence multitudes are becoming reprobate concerning the faith. Hence, if we truly "love," we must warn...

"Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."

-Ezekiel 33:2-6

-B.W.