

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

“I DIDN’T ASK FOR YOU TO CALL ME IGNORANT AND FOOLISH”

How shameful are the “preachers” who repudiate passages like **2 Tim. 4:1-5; Titus 2:15** and instead preach what I call cotton candy sermons filled with gray statements that allow them to leave the assembly labeled as a “great speaker.”

The *reason* the multitudes love polished pulpiteers who deliver cotton candy messages is because many are those who call themselves Christians who simply do not like or tolerate plain, pointed, direct, uncompromising speech. Sad.

It is that so many who fill church buildings have forgotten (or have never read) the following inspired words: **“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools” (Ecc. 7:5)**. Many are the pew sitters who have forgotten (or have never read) **Proverbs 27:6**. There it is written: **“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”** Those who disdain a preacher who uses plain speech obviously have forgotten (or have never read) the following: **“As many as I love, I rebuke...” (Rev. 3:19)**.

I say all this because it is today (8-18-08) that I have read one of the most ridiculous statements I have ever seen or heard of. Here is the background: After being told by a preacher that his deductions were both ignorant and foolish, a young man got upset and stated: **“I didn’t ask for you to call me ignorant and foolish.”**

Now, does that take the cake or what? According to this man’s statement, the one who has the truth on a matter must have the permission of the one in error in order to expose his unscriptural position. I’m sure I’ll be next on the man’s hit list, but I’ll say it anyway: the young man’s foolish statement reeks of ignorance. Let’s see why. If one must ask permission to reprove and rebuke false concepts and improper conclusions, then:

- Isaiah was a poor preacher since he didn’t ask the profane leaders of Israel for permission before stating: **“His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber” (Isa. 56:10)**.
- Paul was a poor preacher since he didn’t ask the unrepentant Jews if he could write the following: **“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:3)**.
- Peter was a poor preacher since he did not ask the errorists permission to state: **“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished” (2 Pet. 3:5-6)**.
- Peter was doubly wrong when he gave the following apostolic command: **“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men” (1 Pet. 2:15)**.
- Jeremiah was wrong since He did not ask permission of those in his day to state: **“And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely. O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. Therefore I said, surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God” (Jer. 5:2-4)**.
- Paul, once, again, is seen to be a poor preacher since he did not ask the churches of Galatia if it was okay to write: **“O foolish Galatians...” (Gal. 3:1)**.
- If plain speech is wrong then God made a mistake in telling Ezekiel: **“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, hear ye the word of the LORD; thus saith the Lord GOD; woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing” (Ez. 13:1-3)**.

Folks, we need to be careful how we speak (**Col. 3:8-9; et al**). However, he who repudiates strong statements repudiates God and inspiration (**2 Tim. 3:16**). Listen, we don’t need to ask permission to use plain speech for God has already granted it.