

GROSS EVIL

An evil resides in the professed church today that any one with a slight knowledge of Scripture can see. And during the past few years it has developed at an abnormal rate. It works like leaven until the whole lump ferments.

Satan works as an angel of light, and he has ministers that appear as ministers of righteousness (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15). It is from this setting of cleverness that this gross evil has entered the church. The gross evil, in which I speak, is the evil that says that the church must tone down its message and provide entertainment for the people, with a view of winning them. In other words, give them what they want, a religion that makes no demands on their life – make them feel comfortable when the truth of God’s Word is preached.

Making people feel comfortable (in their sins) and providing amusement for them is nowhere spoken of in the scriptures as a function of the church. Jesus pitied sinners, sighed and wept over them, but He never sought to amuse them. He never said to the disciples, “Go and tell the people that we’re going to have a different style of service tomorrow, something short and attractive, with little, if any, preaching. Tell them, we will spend a pleasant evening together – we must get them in somehow.” You will look in vain trying to find a message like that in Scripture – it is not there! It has been said, the ministry of the church is salt – not sugar candy.

Oh, that God would give us scholarly men who will stand in the pulpit and preach and teach us God’s Word as did those before us. The early church has boundless confidence in the Word of God, and they employed no other methods to get the job done. We see a great deal of textural misconduct (taking a verse from its context to prove a physiological [something to make one feel better about themselves] point), and very little Bible exposition. This type of ministry is widespread, and it works havoc among young converts.

C.H. Spurgeon said, “Let the careless and scoffers, who thank God because the Church met them halfway, speak and testify. Let the heavy-laden who found peace through the concert not keep silent! Let the drunkard to whom the dramatic entertainment has been God’s link in the chain of conversion, stand up! There are none to answer. The mission of amusement produces no converts.”

The early church had one message and one method for turning the world upside down: the message was the whole counsel of God, and the method was to preach/teach it.

The problem today is that the church doesn’t preach the Word in its proper format. Yes, it’s true, the church talks a lot about the Word of God and our problems; however, the church doesn’t preach/teach the Word of God in its projected context! And the results are staggering. People are still searching and still dealing with the same old problems. Shouldn’t this tell us something?