

“Authentic or Counterfeit Gospel?”

The War

1. Mission (Goal)
 - a. Social Gospel: Equal outcome, punishment, State control, social utopia. Many Jews in Jesus’ day sought political/militant revolution via Messiah. Jesus recruited such a Zealot (Simon) to follow Him in a superior commission.
 - b. Shamed Gospel: Redemption, forgiveness, worship, communion, holiness Ro. 8:29
2. Strategy
 - a. Social Gospel: Deception, misinformation, shaming, canceling, coercing, targeting e.g. “race,” religion, affiliation, using the State to enforce preferred outcomes, vilifying all who do not support such methods and goals. Cloaking evil with virtuous platitudes (2 Cor. 11:14), labels, and playing on emotional chords.
 - b. Shamed Gospel: being transparent, truthful, and tolerant. Proclaim the Gospel in Word and walk. Mat. 10:16 = be truthful and courageous but not obnoxious. It’s not always the right time to rebuke (Isa. 42:3). Nevertheless, our message is ‘repent’ (e.g. Mat. 3:2; 4:17).
3. Tactics
 - a. Social Gospel:
 - i. Re-defining terms, canceling, labeling. “Reproductive Equality,” “Gender Equality,” “Marriage Equality,” “Racial Equality,” and such are terms/phrases which are employed to seem virtuous.
 - ii. Sadly, even churches and denominations who once held an interpretation of passages which seem fairly clear and straightforward, are now interpreting them loosely so as to not be offensive or to be inclusive. E.g. Regarding women pastors: What is the plain intent of Paul’s teaching in 1 Tim. 2:12; 3:2 = no room for wife of one husband or only wife of a husband; Titus 2:4-5; Eph. 5:22-24 note that v. 21 includes mutual submission but not mutual roles in such. If the Church is to be the wife of Christ, she is not to be head or leader – Christ the Husband is!
 - iii. When Adam and Eve were cursed, Adam had to labor with toil for he had the responsibility to steward such. However, Eve’s and women’s curse is pain in child labor. Now if man can’t give birth and thus feel such curse, women ought not to seek the headship of man’s role; for when she does, she only adds frustration (Gen. 3:16).
 - iv. If we who are trying to take God at His Word and interpret its intent with integrity and clarity and w/o twisting (e.g. 2 Cor. 4:2) and we are wrong, at least we have good reason for such. However, if churches/teachers change their interpretations to suit the appeal and approval of churches and society, God will deal with them.
 - b. Shamed Gospel:
 - i. Our message may be offensive, but the offensive Word is the powerful convicting, transforming Word. Therefore we need not be clever, use gimmicks, or poll what society desires in order to provide it. Instead, we plainly, clearly, boldly, humbly, and prayerfully preach the Word.
 - ii. 2 Tim. 4:2-4 preach the Word. 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:2 rely on the Word cf. Isa. 55:11.
 - iii. Incorporate Gospel essentials in evangelism. What are they?

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The Ideals

1. Values
 - a. Virtuous: truth, life, purity
 - b. Vicious: autonomy, pleasure, prominence, power
2. Motives
 - a. Virtuous: charity
 - b. Vicious: indulgence, approval, comfort, self-adoration
3. Attitude
 - a. Virtuous: obedience, humility, serving, uplifting,
 - b. Vicious: efficiency, pride
4. Priorities
 - a. Virtuous: The Kingdom, the Word, ministry, unity
 - b. Vicious: gain (best life now), health, wealth, esteem

The Costs

1. Kingdom of God
 - a. Marks of Ministry (2 Cor. 6:4-10)
 - b. Continual Opposition (2 Cor. 4:8-11)
 - c. Malicious Ridicule (1 Cor. 4:9-10; Ro. 1:16-17)
 - d. Cost for Christ (Isa. 53:3-7)
2. Kingdom of Man
 - a. Loss of credibility (1 Pet. 3:16)
 - b. Loss of their souls (Mat. 16:24-26) man was designed to enjoy communion with God.