

Sowing to the Conscience

Today's Reading

John 8:11; 44-47

Jesus used a principle in sowing – grace to the humble, law to the proud. To the woman caught in adultery He extended grace (John 8:11); to the Pharisees He spoke sternly (John 8:44-47). Jesus was both confrontational and gracious depending on the situation.

We, however, have learned to avoid confrontation. Our witness is threatened by political correctness. We like to tell people that "God has a wonderful plan for your life" but forget to warn them of the dire consequences of sin – an eternity in hell.

In order to repent, people need to know that they have offended a Holy God. The only way to escape the flames of hell is by repenting of their sins and accepting Christ's forgiveness. No, you don't have to shake your finger at people, but you must lovingly speak the truth.

Jesus addressed the conscience to point people to the reality

of their heart. A good way to do this is to ask people, "Do you consider yourself to be a good person?" Most people will say yes. Next you can test them by using the Ten Commandments. "Have you ever told a lie?" "Have you ever stolen anything?" "How about using the Lord's name in vain or committing adultery in one's heart?"

In a few minutes people will agree with you that they are guilty. Whether they believe in God or not, you can say, "If there is a God, and were He to judge you on the basis of the Ten Commandments, would you be innocent or guilty?" "Where do you think you would go then, heaven or hell?"

Now share with them the hope and reality of forgiveness in Christ. Don't press for a response. Emphasize your concern for them and your desire that they go to heaven. Then tell them to think seriously about what they just heard, pray for them and trust the Spirit to do the work.

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