

Too Polite to Talk

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Micah 2:1-11

1. Micah brought warnings to Israel from God - Micah 2:1-5
2. The result was outrage against the messenger. They spoke out against Micah, telling him not to prophecy to them - Micah 2:6
3. But God pointed out that if the prophets don't speak out, there will be no change in their self-destructive behavior - Micah 2:7-10
 - a. They were not just becoming enemies of God, they were becoming enemies of each other.
 - b. They strip the clothes from refugees fleeing soldiers
 - c. They throw women and children into the streets making it easier for them to be carried off into captivity
4. If they didn't change, the entire land would be destroyed and they would be carried away
5. The only prophets they were willing to hear were the ones telling them to eat, drink, and be merry; everything will be fine. Advocating drinking would be a popular, though useless doctrine - Micah 2:11

B. Things haven't changed.

1. People don't want to hear about their sins and the inevitable consequences of them.
2. They charge the speaker with being negative and judgmental. They are offended that he thinks they need instruction or correction.
3. They want to hear that they are okay as they are and that everything will be just fine.
4. They campaign to get other weak, vulnerable Christians to join in their cry against strong, sound teaching.
5. "You tell me that my promiscuity and partying is sinful and I need to repent. You are judging me."
6. "You preach that my laziness, lying, and lasciviousness make me subject to local church discipline. Then the church is an unloving, bigoted, toxic environment."

C. What happens to faithful brethren, who like Lot in Sodom, have their righteous souls vexed by a constant barrage of this form of liberal judgmentalism?

1. They weary of being one of the few voices still proclaiming truth and become too polite to talk.

I. INSTRUCTION INVOLVES DISTRESS

A. The wise learn when instructed, but fools hate to be corrected

1. Prov. 9:8, 13:1, 18, 15:32, 17:10

B. It is the Divinely ordained duty of a preacher to strongly declare the truth, but there are people who will demand comforting lies instead - 2Tim. 4:1-4

1. Isa. 30:9-11; Jer. 5:30-31
2. With no love for the truth, they prefer to be deceived - 2Thes. 2:10-11
3. How far people will go - Jer. 26:20-23

- C. Some want no conflict - the “can’t we just get along” folks
 - 1. Unity is important - Eph. 4:1-3
 - 2. Peace is needed - 2Cor. 13:11
 - 3. But true unity, genuine peace, and authentic fellowship only comes in faithful love and obedience toward God
 - a. Jer. 6:14, 8:11-12, 23:17
 - 4. Woe upon blurring the difference between truth and lies - Isa. 5:20-21

II. INSTRUCTION INVOLVES DUPLICATION

- A. Some people take offense when reminded of things they ought to know
 - 1. Implying an insult, pointing out an oversight, hurting pride, caught in a moment of weakness, boring
- B. Peter was inspired to remind the brethren, even after his passing
 - 1. 2Peter 1:12-15, 3:1
- C. Even the knowledgeable need reminders - Rom. 15:14-15
- D. Reminders help keep us safe - Phil. 3:1

III. INSTRUCTION INVOLVES DISAGREEMENT

- A. Christians may disagree freely on matters in which God has granted liberty
 - 1. Rom. 14:1-8
- B. But are Christians permitted to hold diverse views on revealed matters?
 - 1. Acts 20:20, 26-27
 - 2. The preaching of gospel is not subject to our approval - 1Thes. 2:4
 - 3. The gospel is not to be preached through the filter of political correctness - 2Cor. 4:2-6
 - a. You speak evil of the sound preaching of the Gospel? Then you speak evil of God who commanded it to be preached soundly.
- C. When someone is living in sin before God and men, we cannot remain silent
 - 1. Israel fell because those on watch didn’t sound an alarm - Isa. 56:10
 - 2. For the sake of the people’s health, safety, and lives, the watchman must not be silent - Isa. 62:1
 - 3. God requires the watchmen to cry out - Isa. 62:6
 - 4. Even though many will not listen - Jer. 6:17
 - 5. When Peter isolated himself under pressure from Jewish Christians, Paul stood against him - Gal. 2:11-14

IV. INSTRUCTION INVOLVES DETERMINATION

- A. Strive for unity and peace, by first seeking to live acceptably and teach faithfully before the Lord, before trying to make others happy
- B. Jer. 23:26-29
 - 1. God’s word is the wheat - it nourishes those who accept it. Error is like the chaff - it nourishes no one.
 - 2. God’s word is fire - it destroys the bad and purifies the good
 - 3. God’s word is a hammer - it breaks those who refuse to accept it and builds up those who do
- C. 1Cor. 1:10