

When to Speak and When not to Speak

Reading together Scott Rodin's blog article about the new moral code in society it was obvious from his language and from the frequently quoted off-the-point scripture verses, that he was teaching from a religious mindset.

The article was about how he responded to two JW's who came to tell him about Jesus. Their Jesus was different to his so he felt he had to invite them to meet the real one. All very fine. However, the gist of his article was about whether a person is ashamed of Jesus or not – ashamed to disagree with someone under the protocols of society's new moral code of tolerance.

“I consider it a pretty clear divine opportunity when two Jehovah’s Witnesses drive up to my house, meet me in my yard and want to talk to me about Jesus. So we talked and I shared. I attempted to do so ‘with gentleness and respect’ while also proclaiming the true Jesus, Son of God and second person of the Trinity. In doing so I broke two rules of the New Moral Code. I was critical of someone else’s life choices and I did not accept that whatever others believe is just fine. With all the love I could muster, I earnestly invited them to know Jesus, to walk away from the deception in which they were enmeshed and be set free to follow the Jesus in whom, “all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”¹.

I wondered if the 76% of practicing Christians who think we should not criticize other’s life choices would think my witnessing was wrong? And I wonder what the 61% of practicing Christians would have done, if they affirm that people can believe whatever they like? I am sure some of my liberal Christian friends would admonish me for assuming my JW visitors needed to change anything at all about what they believed.”²

For us, there are a few Kingdom protocols that we need to abide by when talking to others who have a different point of view:

1. We are only required to speak when Holy Spirit tells us, and then only what he gives us.
2. Sinners are supposed to sin. That's their rebellious nature, not ours. They are responsible for their own actions, thoughts, words, attitudes, etc.
3. Aspire to lead a quiet life minding your own business.³ Other people's issues, and the like, are theirs, not ours. We don't have to meddle in everyone's business⁴, even though our flesh wants to.
4. Don't be another person's overseer (*allotrioepiskopos*). In 1 Pet. 4:15 the word 'busybody' actually means that no believer should tell others what to do if they aren't a genuine overseer. In NT times it “was a legal term for a charge brought against Christians as being hostile to civilized society, their purpose being to make Gentiles conform to Christian standards.”⁵ (Ring any bells today?)

Don't let your enthusiasm, your 'burden for the lost', or the religious spirit drive you to enter into vigorous discussions with non-believers. Never lose your peace in such instances because that's a sign you're no longer speaking under the Spirit's guidance. Once you've spoken what the Spirit wants them to hear, they are responsible for what they do with it – not you. Relax and surrender it to the Lord to do whatever needs to be done subsequently.

For myself, there are those who consider that I don't follow proper protocols when I talk to others or when I teach. The problem is, I operate with an apostolic mantle and only those who are apostolic in spiritual gifting understand what difference that makes. The apostolic brings order and stability, and that order is alignment with heaven, not submission to religious, church or cultural norms. The apostolic is firm, but loving; strong, but meek. The apostolic is offensive to the soul, the flesh, to secular culture and to the religious. I make no 'bones about it' – I speak what I'm shown by the Spirit and it's often confronting. Jesus confronted the religious system of his day and we applaud him, but when he confronts religion

1 – Colossians 2:9

2 – Scott Rodin (March 7, 2017) “Proclaimed or Ashamed: Are You Falling for the New Moral Code?” [The Steward's Journey' blog] (thestewardsjourney.com/proclaimed-ashamed-falling-new-moral-code)

3 – 1 Thessalonians 4:11 (NKJV)

4 – 2 Thessalonians 3:11 (NKJV)

5 – Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words (www.menfak.no/bibelprog/vines?word=%AFt0000393)

today through the genuine apostolic, we can't handle it. That response is a statement in itself.

In 1986 I was given Ezekiel 3:4-11 as a scriptural rhema. I read it and the Spirit bore witness with my spirit that this was who I would become in the future. In 1986 I was given Ezekiel 33:2-7 as a scriptural rhema. As I read it the Spirit again bore witness with my spirit that this was who I was to become.

So my apostolic mantle has been gifted to me to fulfil my roles as a sentinel (watchman) to the ekklesia to warn them and admonish them concerning where they are and where they need to be. If I don't warn, I'm responsible. It also enables me to stand against the religious system and the religious spirit in people which prevents them from hearing what God is saying **NOW**.

If I'm offensive, but speaking in *agape* love without any desire for control, then consider that a religious constituent is being triggered.

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