

How to Preach so as to Converting Nobody

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All would concur that Jesus would have to be the most fruitful of all preachers, yet He was rejected and crucified. John the Baptist was the greatest born of women, so said the Lord Jesus, yet he was imprisoned and ultimately beheaded. Peter saw as many as three thousand saved following strong biblical preaching and he was crucified upside down. None of the above is acceptable to many modern preachers, so what ought one do? Obviously not the following rules that are guaranteed to keep sinners in the church comfortable and happy. May we always attain to biblical truth and purpose. Much of this is garnered from the writings of C.G Finney, the great evangelist

1. May the preacher's supreme motive be to secure his own popularity and adapt all he does so not to convert souls.
2. Aim to make your hearers pleased with themselves and pleased with you, and be sure you hurt no ones feelings.
3. Be careful lest your sermon thoughts contain truth enough for souls to see the danger of hell and disturb their conscience and become alarmed about their soul's condition.
4. Denounce sin in the abstract but make no allusion to the sins in the congregation, lest any one may be moved to his personal salvation.
5. Preach love and grace, but avoid preaching on hell lest the sinner would flee from the wrath to come.
6. Never preach in such a way that the sinner would be impressed that God commands the hearers to obey the truth.
7. Never leave the impression that folk need to make a decision on the spot since he should go home and think about it.

8. Be sure to leave the impression that God will not send them to hell seeing He is such a loving God.

9. Never leave the impression that God demands self-denial, cross-bearing and crucifixion of the old nature.

10. Make no one feel uncomfortable in their sin but take them into membership so that they may grow with the rest of us.

11. Never lead a soul to assume that they should testify to their saving faith. Leave that up to the experts.

12. Don't make too much of the need to be Spirit filled lest you sound fanatical.

13. Don't be too obsessed with having to go to prayer meetings, after all God knows our needs and I can depend on the prayers of the elderly.

14. Never disallow folk getting together to gossip about those in leadership. After all they may come up with needed direction for the church.

The above may allow for a large congregation but may well see many of them on their way into a Christ-less eternity. Seek the approval of the Lord God, the righteous Judge and not avoid disagreeable judgement and final retribution in preaching. May we never treat the doctrines of eternity with disdain by Christian "refinement."

Send your comments and questions and we will, prayerfully seek to get back to you as soon as possible. jandrvdv@nbnet.nb.ca