

The Acts of a Street Preacher

Preaching Distinguished

“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God,
it pleased God by
the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
-1 Corinthians 1:21

There is yet not a member of the Fellowship, that could ever be thought to be a Distinguished Preacher, and God forbid that we ever keep such a one in our ranks, or make proselytes of such. However, it must be noted for all members that Preaching, by both literary, legal and Biblical definition is distinguished from all other forms of communication. Preaching is a specific style of verbal communication set apart by certain unique, and singular characteristics, that separates preaching from all other styles of communicating thoughts and ideas. And though many writers, ministers, and teachers have obviously never understood the distinction, and use the word synonymously with ‘teaching’, ‘sermonizing’, ‘witnessing’, ‘testifying’ etc.; true Biblical preaching is a literary style of vocal communication all of its own, and every minister and member of the Fellowship, should note the distinction. For Bible Preaching stands alone for its distinction in every legal challenge to its practice before the Courts of Justice that are often called to determine the legality of its oft-misconstrued practice in the open air.

Accordingly, the Fellowship’s Doctrinal Statement adheres to the most concise Biblical, legal and literary definition of “Preaching”, which both stands the test of Biblical usage, literary merit, and legal challenge:

“Preaching is the forceful,
verbal delivery of a specific religious truth,
which compels the hearer to either
accept or reject the message.”

It is not just verbal communication, nor is it just a generalized talk of ideas and thoughts. Preaching is distinguished from all other styles of vocal speaking, in that it is forceful, and presses its hearers for acceptance or rejection of its message. Such force is recognized by the ear, as the varied fluctuation of the voice, in both pronunciation and diction, and increases and decreases of the loudness of the voice. That force has its root and inspiration in spiritual things,

The Acts of The Street Preachers, © Copyrighted 2003 RMMcRae, Street Preachers' Fellowship. Used by permission. This article and continuing series may not be copied, reprinted or otherwise photocopied without written prior permission from the author, at Street Preachers' Fellowship, P.O. Box 5607 Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904

and not just literary style. Science as well as the rock music industry has discovered the powerful impact sound wave fluctuation has upon the hearer. Such vibratory fluctuations are the root and foundation of all mind-altering techniques utilized by medical science, the military, radio and television, and the devil himself with his “all kinds of music” (Daniel 3: 10).

Such is the rhythmical verse of the poet, and the accentuation of the linguist, in attempting to capture on paper, the moving of the Spirit (2 Peter 1:21) in the speaker full of the Holy Ghost. Preaching is the definitive and purest illustration of the workings of God in communicating a powerful, life-changing message through the phenomenon of vocal communication. The power of the word of God is beyond comprehension (Hebrews 4:12,13), yet its Godly design mandates that the transmission of its message be with such a powerful voice (see Psalm 29:4) that it penetrates beyond the ear, to the very depths of the heart (Luke 9:44). Such a working of God is not seen or heard in the mere talk of public speaking or teaching, for “it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). In the forceful delivery style of preaching, what the preachers “hear in the ear” by that “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12) they “preach...upon the housetops” (Matthew 10:27). And the workings of the Spirit of God in such forceful delivery does, in the words of the United States Supreme Court, “indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger...is often provocative and challenging...striking at prejudices and preconceptions and having unsettled effects as it presses for acceptance” (*Terminiello v. Chicago*, 337 U.S. 1 (1949)). Thus, we are preachers, not political activists, or even protesters. We are Preachers...Street Preachers in the purest form of the word, who present the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the reproofs and rebukes of the word of God to a lost and dying world, through the forceful verbal delivery, that by its very nature is “foolishness” to them that perish (1 Corinthians 1:18). “But unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

Preaching in the streets of America or any other country in the world has no guarantee of its longevity or its offer of freedom, if God’s ministers do not recognize what it is, and that by its God given design and nature has to fight for not just the right to be exercised, but also be heard, and tolerated even under “the offense of the cross” (Galatians 5:11), that is so often disdained under the cloke of “annoying people.” The preaching of the Jesus Christ is offensive to many people (see Matthew 13:21,57/ 15:12/ 24:10/ 26:33/ Mark 4:17/ 6:3/ Luke 7:23/ John 16:1).

The Acts of The Street Preachers, © Copyrighted 2003 RMMcRae, Street Preachers' Fellowship. Used by permission. This article and continuing series may not be copied, reprinted or otherwise photocopied without written prior permission from the author, at Street Preachers' Fellowship, P.O. Box 5607 Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904

“And then shall many
be offended...”
-Matthew 24:7,10

To cease preaching because the word of God has come to pass is no attribute to “reasonable service” (Romans 12:1,2). To refuse to fight for the right to not only continue preaching, but to do so irregardless of whom may be offended, is to silently, and apathetically erode the very Constitutional right of all us to preach in the open air. If a minister insists on not offending people, he needs to do all street preachers a favor and confine his ministry behind a pulpit in a nice church building somewhere. Because, one of the distinguishing marks of true Bible preaching, is the forceful delivery, and the specificity of the message. Both offend people. Preaching loses its effect, when for timidness, fear and even cowardice, a minister cannot be specific in his message. A preacher ceases to preach when he deals in generalities. Cursed be this ideological cowardice that deals with sin and with sinners in a generalized manner. No one commits sin in a general way. No one can repent in a general way. And no preacher is truly preaching, if he deals in generalities.

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,
and shew my people their transgressions.”
-Isaiah 58:1

God Almighty, and the Courts will uphold true Bible preaching, if only the preacher will!