

A Preacher's Philosophy

Geoffrey R. Kirkland

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

I. Preach Out of Love for God's Word!

A man of God preaches the Word of God because of his love for the revelation of God contained in the pages of Scripture. The pages of Scripture have arrested his own heart and thus he longs to announce the glories of the gospel. Take away a paycheck, a parsonage, or a congregation from a preacher and watch him preach on the highways, the byways, and in the plazas out of his overwhelming love for the Word of God. The Scriptures have so captivated this man's affections that he can do no other but preach the glorious riches found in this magnificent treasure. A man who preaches the Word of God must first be captivated by the Word of God as it is impressed upon his own soul and then he will be aflame to proclaim it to others. But without a preacher's love for God's Word, his proclamation will be nothing but words uttered in thin air.

II. Preach Out of Love for the Glory of God!

A man devoted to preaching the Word of God commits himself to the heralding of God's truth because the glory of God has consumed his heart. The man who has been affected by the weightiness of God's character and worth will delight in preaching the Word. The glory of God that grips a man's soul will compel him to reveal who God is to all people. This also contains the reality that regardless of how people respond to the preaching of this Word the man of God will continue to endure regardless of the mocking, scoffing, persecutions, or threatenings. The man inflamed with a love for the matchless Name of God is the man who will stand and preach a "foolish" message in the eyes of mankind because he is utterly convinced that God takes the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. God's glory is most magnificently displayed in the preaching of the Word through a weak vessel to dead sinners who receive the gift of regeneration and new life. The glory of God is magnificently revealed through the preacher's relentless devotion to the bold, fearless, God-centered, Christ-exalting, Spirit-empowered, gospel-driven preaching!

III. Preach Out of Love for the Soul of Every Listener!

The preacher must preach because he knows that every soul will either spend endless eternities in glorious praise or in shrieking torment. The man who commits himself to the authoritative proclamation of the Word of God unabashedly preaches the absolute holiness of God, the utter despicableness of man, the sufficient redemption in Christ, and the necessity for repentance & faith. True love for a person's soul will manifest itself in the bringing of truth to that person's soul. Love for a sinner requires sharing the truth which inherently brings confrontation with the sinner's pride, self-sufficiency, autonomy, and idolatrous worship. But the preacher who loves the Lord, the Word, and the sinner must preach the truth, the entire truth, and compel sinners to repent, be saved, and find life. The hope that the sinner will repent, be saved from eternal hell, and find the unending compassion, fatherly grace, and overflowing love that is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.