

Men's Fraternity  
And  
Evangelism

*The following was composed by Ronnie W. Rogers to respond to a question, teach, or provide counsel. The content was typed but not proofread.*

Thank you for your concern for truth and your kind words about the teaching, although I cannot take credit for much of the content. I, generally, agree with your theological concerns. I too, believe that the issue of sin, judgment, and repentance are essential to the full teaching of Scripture; further, anyone who comes to Christ will be convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, and we should never recoil from mentioning anything of the Scripture, for it is the word of God.

Maybe by explaining the nature of Men's Fraternity and a couple of thoughts regarding my understanding of Scripture will help you, at least, see why I do what I do; rest assured, I am in full agreement with your sentiment.

First, Men's Fraternity is a three year teaching for men to be better men. It is designed to help Christian men be better men, and to be used as an outreach to gradually unfold God's plan in what it means to become a man, be a man and live out full manhood for the lost as well as the saved. Consequently, the full orb of truth is limited to what can be delivered in concert with that day's lesson and the years teaching.

Second, Men's Fraternity was designed by Robert Lewis. When I am going over the notes, I change some of them, and replace whatever kind of story e.g. success, failure, marital, spiritual, with one of like kind, but is true of me. Further, the power points, and the handout are already done, and therefore when I share differently from the power points it needs to use the same language....At times I have changed some, but it can create enormous work on my Assistant and potentiates confusion in Men's Fraternity. For example, when I share my testimony--the chronological emphasis, length etc--is according to the way that he did his. I have shared it several times during the three years, and this past week was probably the briefest. The point is that I have to stay with the main teaching and that even with my own testimony; I do not share all of it at any given time. That would be true with the biblical teaching as well.

Third, I did mention in the lesson the following: sin, sin does not go unpunished, then how one could bypass the punishment, then there were power points like that my faith was in his sufficient work for me on the cross, he forgave my sins.... This is the age old problem of not being able to say enough. For example, I am speaking on the local church on Sunday mornings, but there is much more that I can say even after a long series. In Men's Fraternity, I am under strict time requirements, and I have to get to the end; consequently, many, many times I would love to stay longer on a subject and deal with it more fully, but I cannot not.

Biblically, we must "speak the truth in love" but rarely if ever can we speak "all" the truth at the same setting. That is why, even in

sharing, and teaching, you must have knowledge, and pray for wisdom of what to say at that time since you cannot say everything.

Jesus spoke to people very differently; for example, when He addressed the Pharisees...he spoke sometimes very harshly Matthew 23. However, he addressed the Samaritan woman John 4, and did it gently, and you might note that the words sin, judgment, hell...are absent from that encounter.

John 10:10, which says that He came that "they may have...it abundantly" is in contrast to the thief who steals. John 10:9 is one of the great declarations of the truth of salvation. Consequently, He does offer a better life here and now--as I shared in my testimony--as well as for eternity. Moreover, that life is offered to the lost, who will enter by the narrow gate.

Concerning heaven and rewards, remember that Men's Fraternity is addressing dedicated Christian men, wavering and struggling Christian men, new Christian men as well as potential lost. So, I am trying to encourage all groups to live with God's glory, heaven, rewards, and following Christ in mind every minute of the day. As a pastor, I am keenly aware of the lack of a full orb'd biblical view of reality, and how that is to guide every day life in men of every spiritual level.

The word heaven appears 275 times in New Testament. Sometimes it appears in the context of believers, others--many times--in the context of preaching to saved and lost or just lost Matt 3:2, John, Jesus Matt 4:17. This includes, mentions of heaven to help the believer be heavenly minded.

While the benefits of heaven are only for those who accept Christ's sacrifice, repent, and follow Him; the promise of heaven is for everyone to hear. 1 Peter 1:4; 2 Peter 3:13, we believers look for heaven, and that is part of our testimony--or it should be. Part of the testimony of the Scripture is that this is not all there is, and that should be shared with the world.

If I refused to mention sin, judgment etc, then there is clearly a problem, or I would say, even if I shy away from them. Or if I said He came to "only" give us good life on earth...that would be a problem. However, that is neither my practice nor my heart; although, I am quite sure that I do not do a good job of honoring God in the way He deserves to be honored. I am dedicated to only speaking what and in a way that is pleasing to Him, but I am painfully aware of falling dreadfully and all too frequently short in that quest.

So, my dear brother, thank you again for your kind words, and your concern. I want you to know that I deeply appreciate your writing me. Even with what I have shared to let you know why I do what I do, be assured that I am ever so thankful for the reminder to be lucidly clear as I can be about the path to heaven. I am always saddened when I reflect on the inadequacy of my words spoken on behalf of my Lord. God surely, deserves more. Maybe with brothers like you, who will graciously hold me accountable, I will grow in honoring God with my lips. Please, pray for me.