

# PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

## “PREACH IT PREACHER!!!” (UNTIL IT AFFECTS ME)

Many members of the church claim to appreciate preachers who do their job (2 **Tim.4:1-5**). Personally, I’ve known many people who delight in preachers who preach pointed messages that call for application (cf. **Acts 8:18-23**). Yes, it’s just a plain fact, that many are those who’ve been baptized for the remission of their past sins (**Acts 2:38**) who sit in pews and “eat it up” when a preacher really “gets to going” on any number of topics.

However, so very often (not always, but so very often) many of those same people who claim to love strong preaching so much don’t like or readily embrace it when the subject matter under consideration affects them. When it is their lifestyle or their conclusions about a text that comes under scriptural scrutiny they no longer subscribe to the mindset of “*preach it preacher!!!*” For instance...

- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe in the personal indwelling of the Holy Ghost, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that today the Holy Ghost operates upon the heart of man through the written Word of God (**Eph. 3:1-6; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe God really will allow for brethren to “agree to disagree” on certain biblical subjects, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that God does not allow for, nor will He accept, an “agree to disagree” mentality (**Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Plp. 3:16**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe fellowship is something on the level of ice-cream socials and chili suppers, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that fellowship is joint-participation in things spiritual (**1 Cor. 1:9; 1 John 1:3-7**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe it is just fine to go nosing around in other people’s business, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that busybodies have not the favor of the Lord (**1 Pet. 4:15**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe it’s no big deal to hold grudges against those who have asked for their forgiveness, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that said behavior is just as dangerous and as out of harmony with the will of God as anything can be (**Matt. 6:14-15; Eph. 4:31-32**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe it’s fine to use their tongues for all sorts of evil, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that such is sinful (**Js. 3:8-12**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe it is okay to marry, divorce and remarry for just about any and every reason, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that under the terms of the New Covenant there is only one reason God accepts divorce and remarriage (**Matt. 19:9**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet believe a woman must wear an artificial garment on her head while praying, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches the simple truth that a woman’s covering is long hair (**1 Cor. 11:15**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet overlook their responsibilities to their brethren with physical needs, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher once he preaches that such demonstrates one does not love God, despite what one may say to the contrary (**1 John 3:17**).
- So often those who claim to love strong preaching, yet see no problem with any number of errors, will no longer appreciate a real life gospel preacher, once he addresses and exposes those errors (**John 3:19-20**).

The attitude so many church members have today is “*preach it preacher – until it affects me.*” Pitiful. Truly pitiful.