

Doctrine of Preaching

Spiritual Sermons and Fleshly Sermons

1. Fleshly sermons are hypocritical. Exhortations are made to live contrary to what the one who gives the sermon is living. Hypocritical sermons can be given because the secret life of the speaker is not known and there is a presupposition on the part of the audience that the speaker is living in a moral manner. In contrast spiritual sermons flow from a spiritual heart.
2. Fleshly sermons are damnable. Because fleshly sermons are hypocritical they form the basis of damnation for those whose words and works will rise up in judgment against them. Spiritual sermons are conceived in prayer and delivered with the dew of heaven upon them.
3. Fleshly sermons are without dynamic power. Fleshly sermons may change a few but only in the same manner of grace that some found a blessing even under the false ministry of Balaam. Spiritual sermons are satisfying to hungry souls because they have been Spirit taught.
4. Fleshly sermons are numerous. It is easy to speak millions of religious sermons that are doctrinally sound but of no spiritually nutritious value as the fig tree was able to blossom but bore no fruit upon examination. Spiritual sermons have a root of righteousness that bears the fruit of the same.
5. Fleshly sermons may be well meaning. The desire of the speaker may be to hurt no one and help everyone but in the end there is always a manifestation of sexual immorality associated with fleshly sermons. Spiritual sermons lead to true holiness. The woman of Samaria was changed by the gospel and stopped hurting herself and stopped using others. The woman caught in adultery who was brought to Jesus was changed by Christ who said, "Go and sin no more." Samson found his spiritual strength vanished because of his passions. Only when he remembered to pray and was restored to fellowship did he find strength for the service of the Lord. He died in a state of sanctification. Beware of sermons that never change the heart.