

Hard Preaching

- “Why you should be kind instead of nice...”
 - East Coast is kind but not nice; West Coast is nice but not kind
 - Niceness – “I’m sorry you’re cold”; Kindness – “Ugh, you’ve said that 5x; here’s a sweater”
 - Kindness addresses need, regardless of tone
- Preaching God’s word entails different kinds of lessons—balance of truth, encouragement, instruction, etc.
 - Preaching whole counsel of God is more than warm fuzzies – Is. 30:10; 2 Tim. 4:3-4
 - No intention to step on toes or single people out, but do want to reach hearts and encourage repentance where applicable
 - Jn. 6:60 – Jesus could be a “hard preacher”
- Peter
 - Acts 2 – Pentecost audience included Jews who demanded Jesus killed – 2:23
 - Peter could have preached various things that day, but what was more appropriate than convicting them of their sins? 2:29-37
 - Today, church is body of Christ – Col. 1:18.
 - Our sins today crucify Jesus again – Heb. 6:6. Need to preach this just like Peter did.
- Paul
 - Athenians wanted to hear some new thing
 - Paul politely called them idolators and ignorant about God, even though they were some of the most well-educated of the day – Acts 17:23
 - Today, we must teach those who don’t know God or how to worship Him
 - Paul was hard preacher to own brethren
 - Gal. 2:11-14 – Publicly corrected Peter, fellow preacher and apostle, when he was in sin and hypocrisy
 - Withstood him to his face—Hard preaching
 - Takes hard preaching today to reprove and correct brethren in error – 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Tim. 5:20-21
- John the Baptizer
 - Mt. 14:4 – Given opportunity to preach to King Herod, John addressed Herod’s major flaw/sin
 - Could have preached truth, but focused on other issues, neglecting sin
 - But he preached on adultery & told him he was in sin
 - Today, we much likewise preach against all forms of adultery and not shy away from such to be “nice”
 - Need to speak out against it like John – Mt. 14:4; 5:32; 19:3-9
- Conclusion
 - Preach the truth to those who need to hear it, regardless of consequences
 - We don’t call out sin to be mean or self-righteous—do so out of love – Eph. 4:15
 - How much do you love and genuinely care for your family members, friends, etc. who are lost? Enough to talk to them about Jesus?