

Smyrl: Confront Catholics as They are Living and Believing a Lie

Below is an excerpt from Jim Smyrl's sermon entitled "When God Gets Hold of You", preached at the downtown campus of FBC Jacksonville on May 20, 2009.

These remarks by Smyrl give clarification and emphasis to his remarks made in a series of three articles he wrote defining the Catholic Church to be a "cult" - these three articles appeared on the FBC Jax blog site in November/December 2008, but were taken down shortly thereafter and never put up again. Below Jim explains that people who wish to evangelize must be willing to confront their Catholic friends with the lie they are living and believing. Jim equates Catholicism in its error to the un-Christian religions of Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism.

Here is the entire excerpt from Jim's sermon:

"I wrote a series of blog articles a while back. Showing the nature, the beliefs the practices, of Catholicism, being equal to nearly every measurable degree that we have of cults today. And I was blasted. Now I love it, that just fires me up! I..I...mean, just verbally assaulted, over and over and over again - by evangelical Christians.

And my response was this: if I were to tell you today that a new group was starting out - they're starting up down on Beach Avenue. And they, do, uh, a communion service but the really, literally believe that what's in that cup is the blood of Jesus and they drink it. After that they pray to a woman, and then they go confess their sins to a man. You'd have no problem saying 'Well, that's a cult'. But because we know somebody that's a Catholic - and there are saved Catholics - they just haven't been disciplined in the gospel. But because we have a friend or a family member or somebody we know, here's what we do: we soften the gospel. We soften the truth.

'Let's not offend' - listen: if you're ever going to win somebody in Catholicism to Christ, you may have to make a friend of them, you may have to get to know them, you may have to spend time in their life, but there is going to come a point that you have to say 'What you have been living and believing is a lie.' And you don't say it on your own authority, you say it on the authority of the One who saved you and called you into the gospel ministry.

I'm riding my motorcycle down 9A the other day. I look over, and the dome on Jacksonville's newest Muslim mosque is being put in place. It's amazing, Christians will rally for everything but what God says is important. We'll rally around any political issue that comes up. We'll pour every dime we've got into it. We'll go to any march, we'll go to any sit-in, we'll go to any protest, we'll go to any rally, that will help us make sure we've got a free market society and that somebody else isn't doing something we don't like about. But when it comes to engaging the enemy and the greatest weapon he's used in the last 1400 years, listen, to conquer all of Asia, to conquer much of Europe, what he's doing today he's doing it the same way with Islam in America today and the church is silent. And a big dome goes up in our city and we sit back passively and say 'Well, if that's what they want to believe, alright.' Well, get ready brother, 'cause your grandchildren are going to come under Muslim law if you keep silent.

And Catholics and Muslims and Hindus and Buddhists and Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses can come to Jesus Christ and be saved. They can be radically changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. They can be radically transformed by a God that loves them and sent His Son to die for them to give His life that they may have eternal life but Paul says how will they ever know unless there is a preacher that goes and tells them. How're they ever going to know unless you get on the front line where God has called us to invest our lives and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who have fallen into a lie of darkness in our city".