

**General Topics :: New Statement by Ted Haggard****New Statement by Ted Haggard - posted by chadster, on: 2006/11/25 12:51**

I'm on a ministry mailing list that is located in Texas. The leaders of this ministry have been friends with Ted Haggard and asked their constituency to pray for Ted and his family. Ted wrote him and conveyed his appreciation for the prayers.

I know a lot has been said on these forums about Ted...and I thought it would be good if you could see his heart in this recent statement. The Scripture says that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a contrite heart...all of us are in need of the mercy and grace of God...let's keep Ted and his family in our prayers and pray that this situation can be turned to bring honor and glory to God.

Here's his statement:

Please tell your list "thank you" for praying for Gayle and me, and our family. We desperately need prayer. Our hope and prayer is that this horrible situation, which was created by my awful sinfulness, will demonstrate to everyone how God can take a wicked man like me, turn my ashes into hope, and put some flesh and life onto these dried bones.

I, the greatest of sinners, pray that my story will provide more living proof of how Jesus' redemptive and transforming power, works together through the Church and the Word of God to bring restoration. Even with all of this, I believe that in Him there is a tomorrow.

Jack Hayford is the point person leading my restoration to Christian living. Please pray for him as well.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,

Ted Haggard
"We are Easter People"

Re: New Statement by Ted Haggard - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/11/27 4:14

Here is a article a dear brother just wrote:

Ted Haggard and The Ultimate Deception.
by Rev. Chris Curry

I was all ready to let the whole Ted Haggard thing pass by without much to say about it, until I watched the appearance of James Dobson on Larry King. Dobson was there to share his views on the fallen Ted Haggard. Several things he said really disturbed me, particularly this statement... "Ted is not guilty of hypocrisy... he actually believes homosexuality is wrong... this was just his own struggle with it." The fact that he was doing it while knowing it is wrong and while telling others not to do it, is what makes it hypocrisy. That's exactly what the Pharisees were guilty of. And in retrospect, this is the statement Ted Haggard's accuser and gay sex partner Mike Jones made... "I had to expose the hypocrisy. He is in the position of influence of millions of followers, and he's preaching against gay marriage. But behind everybody's back doing what he's preached against." Even the world knows when they see hypocrisy in the church, and there has never been a better example of it than this. So what is happening here? Why are evangelical leaders so quick to downplay the true nature of this exposed sin in the church? I think it's because they themselves are deceived.

In the early 90's Ray Comfort published a book entitled, 'The Ultimate Deception.' In it he appealed to the church to recognize some serious flaws in how we deliver our modern gospel message. The result of preaching a man-centered gospel of life-enhancement, is the mass production of "false Conversions," those being people who fall away from the faith even though they may remain in the church. This is a subject rarely spoken about in the church but Jesus addressed it in the parable of the sower. He also said there would be tares among us, those who by all appearances seem like Christians, but will in time be exposed by the bad fruit they bear. They are tares among the wheat, and the one who plants them is Satan. They will be pulled up and cast away when the gardener comes to reveal them. They are also referred to as dead branches who will be cut down and thrown into the fire because they do not remain apart of the life-giving vine. Here's the problem with the modern church... that's no problem when it's the average Joe getting exposed, but ar

Are we ready to accept that high profile Christian leaders in high places can also fall into that category? This recent event involving Ted Haggard should cause the church to examine how this could happen and find out how it can be prevented. This article isn't primarily about Ted Haggard, it's about what the church believes and the potential this has to set a dangerous precedent if we do not understand what is really happening here.

I think what shocks me most about the Ted Haggard downfall is the church's lack of indignation and outrage over this scandal. So far, most of what I hear is people making balancing statements like, "we're all sinful, and we all have our own struggles, don't judge." Let's get something clear, Ted's struggle with his sin ended when he decided to enter into it. Temptation is something all Christians face as the spirit wars against the flesh, but it is not the rule for us to succumb to temptation and be bound by sin. For three long years he engaged in homosexual relations with a male prostitute while preaching against sin and rallying support against gay marriage. That is not the mark of a spirit-filled, born-again believer... that is pure hypocrisy! It is also quite obvious that Ted was enslaved to sin, he even said so himself. He also referred to himself as a "deceiver." That is a strong word that is used in the Bible to identify Satan. So how can Ted be a child of God when he is a self-declared deceiver and has purely displayed the characteristics of a child of the devil?

Another problem I have with this whole thing is Ted's own confession and letter of apology to his church, which lacked his own presence. In it he apologizes to his church and expresses pain for how this has affected the people he loves, but nothing to even suggest that he is at all broken over how he has offended the Holy Spirit and sinned against God, not a ounce of godly sorrow reflected in his statement. Only regret over how this has hurt the people he cares for. When referring to the men assigned to guide him through the process of restoration, he said, "They will guide me through a program with the goal of healing and restoration for my life... marriage... and family." Again it is apparent by his words that he only demonstrates concern for his life, but doesn't seem to have any concern for his soul? He ends the statement by asking everyone to demonstrate grace! And that is exactly what those who exploit the grace of God for an occasion of the flesh would say. When David was exposed he didn't appeal to the people for forgiveness. The first words out of his mouth were, "I have sinned against the Lord!" His concern was for his eternal soul and his relationship with the Lord He so loved. He didn't need counseling or a panel of experts to analyze him, his heart exploded with godly sorrow and brokenness. We all feel bad about the far-reaching consequences this downfall will have on Ted, his family, and the church. But this isn't time to feel sorry for Ted, it's time to be concerned for the condition of the evangelical church and thoroughly examine how this could have happened.

In "The Ultimate Deception", Ray Comfort paints a biblical picture of the harlot church as described in Proverbs 7. The harlot church is made up of false converts, those who profess Christ but lack the fruit of authentic conversion, particularly the fruit of righteousness. He lays out several characteristics of the harlot church as follows... *She is rebellious (breaks God's laws) and crafty (deceptive); She lacks the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit; She lacks the heart element of brokenness and contrition which lead to godly sorrow; Her desire is for pleasure, material gain, and monetary profit; She manifests the works of the flesh rather than the fruit of the spirit; She offers false peace (offerings) through the promise of unconditional forgiveness without repentance; she encourages the grace of God for an occasion of the flesh; She lacks the fine linen of the chaste virgin (righteousness), rather, her bed is covered with Egyptian linen (worldliness); her harlot heart longs to satisfy the lustful desires of the flesh rather than remain faithful to her husband; she preys on the ignorant, those who lack knowledge of God's law and she masters the art of enticing them. I wonder how many young disillusioned Christians will be seduced by her alluring spell over this controversy.

That is the great deception that is occurring in our world today. Unsuspecting people are being seduced by the harlot church and her gospel of compromise. And now false converts have to come up with an answer for why they lack power over sin. That is something only those who are born of God can acquire, POWER over sin! But some would have us believe that Ted is just a fallen Christian who needs restoration. The question in this case should be, "where is the power of the gospel to transform sinners from death to life, darkness to light, depravity to righteousness, and enslavement to freedom from sin?" That is what the gospel has the power to do, and that is what the work of the Holy Spirit accomplishes in those who are soundly saved. Will we struggle with sinful thoughts and be tempted, absolutely... but will God allow His children to be overcome by it, No way! He has made it clear that He will keep us, that he will make a way of escape for us, that he will deliver us, because "greater is He that is in us..." because "whom the son sets free... IS FREE indeed!" That is the power of the gospel, that all who live godly in Christ Jesus depart from iniquity, that we are no longer slaves to sin, but to righteousness. And I will not accept any gospel that offers continued slavery to sin, that offers an inability to save to the uttermost. That is a different gospel. And the greatest danger to the church right now is that men esteemed by other men, will be used as pawns by the enemy to promote a different gospel. Many will be enticed by the sound of a gospel that promises entrance into the church to those who remain trapped in their sin, that you can keep your sinful habits and still be saved.

This truly is the greatest deception we are seeing before our very eyes... perhaps millions of professing Christians will view this recent "failure" as justification for their own secret sin. They will draw a comparison and use it as a precedent. This throws fuel on the fire of the greasy grace gospel that so many have embraced. The common misconception among false converts is that it's status quo... "it's normal to have a continuous cycle or season where sin has us bound." Their mindset will be, "if such a high-profile man of God like Ted Haggard can do it and still get to heaven, so can I." They will settle for a "gospel" that doesn't fully save, doesn't fully deliver, doesn't fully restore.

Let's hope that Ted is now considering the true state of his eternal soul and asking some tough questions. Let's hope he comes to the realization that something was severely wrong with his entry point into the church. The fact that they use the word "restoration" implies that his salvation needs to be restored, but was there a salvation to begin with? If so, salvation from what? Will any of the Christian leaders who assist him through this time ever stop to consider the possibility that he simply wasn't saved to begin with? Or will they just gloss over this as another "fall from grace" which simply requires some introspective psychiatry and a prayer from psalm 23? The big difference here is that Ted did not come clean and confess after the first occasion. He continued on for 3 years and was finally exposed publicly. Even then he denied it, until the media pressure became too much and he could deny it no longer. We don't know if he would ever have come clean. And I fear that those assigned to restore him will likely put a heartfelt letter of repentance together for him to read publicly. They will prop him up and convince him that all he needs to do is ask forgiveness and convince the world that he's sorry. It would be better to take the advice of scripture and let him alone with his sin and let God restore him on His own terms... 5 hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. 9I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. 12What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you." (1 Corinthians 5 NIV).

The implication here is frightening. If people see Ted as an authentic born-again, spirit filled Christian, what hope is there for any Christian to live a godly life and withstand the temptations, trials and tribulations? And this will be the nail in the coffin for so many... that they will accept this as normal Christianity and embrace it in order to excuse their own sin or to succumb to the desires of their sinful nature. Rather than see this for what it really is and allow godly conviction to pierce their hearts and lead them to true repentance as they are struck to the core with brokenness over their sin, they will enter the harlot church and continue to believe a lie. That is the ultimate deception.

It's time for church leaders to pay attention to what Ray Comfort has been alerting us to for over two decades now. We need to stop making excuses, applying a band aid to a gaping wound. Why are Christians falling by the wayside? Why are they springing up quick and then withering away? Why are they believing for a little while but being led away by the cares of this life? These questions demand answers and demand that we do everything in our power to avoid creating the conditions that cause this. If this recent event does not cause the leaders of the evangelical movement to properly examine and correct where it is going wrong, we will continue to see men fall to their evangelical death while bringing others with them.

* Excerpts gathered from *The Ultimate Deception*, ch 7, by Ray Comfort; parentheses added.

Re:, on: 2006/11/27 7:48

Well... Amen... I'm all for calling a spade a spade and I think this article does just that. It's about time.

As for James Dobson, he's a smart feller but I haven't been impressed with his spiritual wisdom (or lack of) over the past few years.

Krispy

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2006/11/27 8:14

Quote:
-----This recent event involving Ted Haggard should cause the church to examine how this could happen and find out how it can be prevented. This article isn't primarily about Ted Haggard, it's about what the church believes and the potential this has to set a dangerous precedent if we do not understand what is really happening here.

I think that a primary key in the life of every believer is humility. *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.* (Proverbs 16:18) The question then becomes why does pride lead to destruction? *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.* (1 Peter 5:5) God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Why do we need grace? Can we serve God in victory if God is resisting us? *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* (Romans 5:2) We need access to the grace wherein we stand. We cannot have this grace if God is resisting us- we do not have access to it when God is 'resisting us'. I know it's a logical deduction, but pride shuts the door on grace and without grace how can we stand?

We need access by faith into this grace wherein we stand. We are not standing in our own power. We are no match for this world in our own strength. We are no match for the enemy in our own strength. If God were to lift the hedge in our life and allow us to feel the weight of all that is around us in our own strength we had been overwhelmed at just how much of what we are is actually HIS grace.

This is why we have to be careful about the situation with Ted. Not that we don't try to come to an understanding of what happened, but that we don't err in coming off as if we are above falling into some sin ourselves. We may repulse at what happened, but the enemy is waiting and watching to sift our lives as he has many of men and women of God. If any wish to condemn I do not contend, but caution must needs to be used lest a promise of entering into His rest any of us would seem to come short of it. The fact is we don't know what we are capable of if we were to walk out from underneath the grace of God and it would be a terrible thing to learn this lesson the hard way.

One of the things that is happening also, I think, is that the Church is trying NOT to replay the handling of Jimmy Swaggert and Jim Baker (PTL). I had once heard that only a handful of people ever went to see Jim Bakker and one of them was Billy Graham. Moreover it is not the struggling Christian with secret sin in his/her life that is called to restore those who have fallen it is the *spiritual*.

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)

Obviously it is easy to just question whether the man was ever saved to begin with. But this is God's prerogative. To do so is solicit an invite into the funny paper. That's just what comes to my mind. It is folly to think any of us is above falling. This is the lesson I learn from Jim and Jimmy; the one tried to bring the other down and expose his sin and all the while DID have sin in his own life. What happened? Ten years of being the butt of countless jokes and mockeries. At issue? Pride. *Pride goeth before destruction.* I pray God my name does not go on any such list. I need His grace for survival. I cannot afford to have God resisting me due to a lack of meekness.