



Shocked Into Rhythm

In a group last year, a woman shared she had had a treatment where her heart was ‘shocked into rhythm.’ It had been in a state of atrial fibrillation, which is an erratic heartbeat.

I’m a fan of shock therapy, but more in the matters of *communication*. Years spent in the business world taught me that controversy sells. That’s because it lifts people from the mundane and ordinary to the extraordinary.

Many years ago, Astronaut James Irwin – now deceased – wrote a book called “It’s a Sin to Bore a Kid.” He also founded a high school youth group that uses peer relationships called Young Life that has touched thousands over decades. When that group first formed in our city, the leader rented our downstairs apartment, and before long, 600 kids gathered Friday mornings at 6am for donuts in our church’s fellowship hall. They sat on the floor. *That is* enthusiasm for a cause!

That is why I enjoy the outrageous, because I feel it’s a sin to bore anybody with *The Greatest Story Ever Told* –that God sent His Son to redeem us, a helpless people! It’s supposed to be ‘good news’... and people naturally want to hear what is good. Shock therapy is a way of reaching people who are bored and weary of anemic words and lifeless dogmas.

It can shock their heart into rhythm with God’s plan for their lives and captivate them with His love! Yes.

Just today, there was an unbelievable news story where a rising young tv star urged people not to watch the sitcom that he stars in because it is, in his words, ‘filth’...that ‘it isn’t good for the mind.’ He is bound by contract but it is soon up. Now *that’s news!* Not to mention shocking and controversial!

Society would be shocked to learn of the true Jesus. Why do I say *true*...?

Because when Paul addressed the intellectuals of his day, after having written two long letters to them – at the end of the 2nd, he warned them not to be beguiled from the simplicity of the gospel... because he feared someone might come and present ANOTHER Jesus, ANOTHER gospel, and a DIFFERENT Spirit other than the one he had preached... and they might well receive it! II Cor. 11: 1-3. Later in that same

chapter, he said if satan disguises himself as an angel of light, don't be surprised if his ministers also do so! "Take care lest that light in you be darkness" Jesus warned.

People portray Jesus as soft and a milque-toast leader that people somehow followed anyway! That's not the Jesus of scripture. Jesus lived a life in balance, where He loved righteousness & hated iniquity equally, giving him joy above His peers. He was both loving of the needy but fierce with religious leaders, calling them 'fools, brood of vipers, hypocrites, sons of hell, and whitewashed tombs.' Matt. 23. DEAD, in other words. Full of rules too hard for men to follow...keeping them out of the Kingdom of God.

What do you hate? "Oh I shouldn't hate anything," you say. Not so. If you don't, you're out of order, imbalanced. Impotent like the rest. "Oh you who fear the Lord, hate evil." Ps. 97:10 And "Fear of the Lord is hatred of evil." Prov.8:13. You can't know what you love if you don't know what you hate!

The 'good news' is about changed lives, and you can't change the world and be *like* it! That's our role: To effect change in the unique arena God's placed us in. You don't have to change the world; just YOUR world. Bible prophets used 'gimmicks' all the time to effect change! Don't be so predictable to the people in your life. Surprise them with caring!

My hope is that these words shock *your* heart into rhythm! Learn to live your life in harmony with God's plan. Slow down, and recline back into the arms of a loving Father where there's peace and a brand new beginning! Consider who and what matter to you in life. Start with your family.