



Foundations of a Healthy Church

Biblical Preaching & Teaching¹

Questions for Discussion

- Why is teaching and preaching important in the life of the church?
- How would you describe a Biblical approach to preaching and teaching versus and unbiblical approach?
- What errors or misunderstandings exist in our culture as it relates to preaching and teaching?

A Word-Formed People

- **Question:** What are some ways communities are formed in the world? What binds them together?
- A church is a community that is uniquely formed by the Word of God.
- God's Spirit breathes life through the Word of God to create and form His people.
 - **Ezekiel 37:7-10** ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them.

But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.
- The Bible is God's Word
 - **Habakkuk 2:18-19** ¹⁸ "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! ¹⁹ Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a

¹ This lesson is adapted from material written by David Platt called "12 Traits". This resource can be found at tinyurl.com/12-Traits.

silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

- **2 Peter 1:19-21** ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Role of the Word

2 Timothy 3:14-17 ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- **Salvation** (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - **John 14:6** ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 - **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
 - **Romans 1:16** ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- **Instruction** (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - The Word teaches us about who God is and what He is doing in history.
 - **Exodus 24:12** The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."
 - **Proverbs 15:33** The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.
 - **Romans 15:4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
 - **John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

- **Conviction** (2 Timothy 3:16)

- As we learn God's Word, we're confronted with his holiness and our lack of holiness.
- Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, God's Word is illumined to show us invisible, spiritual realities.
- **John 16:8-11** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
- **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- **Correction** (2 Timothy 3:16)

- God not only convicts us through His word, but uses it to discipline us.
- **Hebrews 12:5-11** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.
⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- **Training in Righteousness** (2 Timothy 3:16)

- **Psalms 1:1-4** ¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ²but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- **Hebrews 5:11-14** ¹¹About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴But solid food is for

the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

- **Equipping for Good Works** (2 Timothy 3:17)

- God's Word tells us how to walk in righteousness, and how to align ourselves with God's purposes in the world.
- Scripture reveals to us the realities of Spiritual gifts (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4:7-11).
- **Hebrews 13:20-21** ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- **Transformation** (2 Timothy 3:17)

- **John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- **Romans 12:1-2** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **Caution:** The Bible is not an instruction manual. There are many things we face where there is not a chapter or verse that directly addresses the concern.
- The purpose of the Bible: It's to make us more like Christ, to transform us such that we're able to navigate life pleasing the Lord, by faith.
- Through His Word, God transforms us from the inside out:
 - **Character** – God first transforms by causing the character of Christ to grow in us.
 - **Conscience** – The more God's Word fills your heart and mind, your conscience is calibrated. Your desires and thinking align with God's thoughts.
 - **Conduct** – As the Holy Spirit forms Christ's character in us, our words and actions change.
 - **Church** – We are not "lone ranger" Christians; we've been called into a family. As God's Word takes root, God begins to work in and through the body to accomplish things meant to be accomplished together.

The Centrality of the Word in a Church

- **Preaching the Word Commanded and Modeled**

- **2 Timothy 4:2** ...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
- The glory of God is seen through the power of His word:
 - **Genesis 1:1-3** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
 - **Psalm 33:6-9** ⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.
- The ministry of Jesus demonstrates the power of God's Word (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 1:39, Luke 7:21, John 11:1-44).
- The church was founded by the preaching of the word (Acts 2).

- **The Word & Judgement Day**

- Judgement day is coming, and preaching the Word is how we help the saints prepare.
 - **2 Timothy 4:1-2** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
- Ephesians 5 analogy – The ministry of the Word is how the bride is washed to be presented to the bridegroom.

- **Scriptural Pattern: Expository Preaching**

- **Definition:** Expository sermons are those that make the main point of a passage of Scripture the main point of the sermon, applying it to life today. They expose the meaning of a passage and demonstrate its relevance to hearers.²
- Expository preaching ensures that the church hears from God according to His Word, not the preacher's thoughts, and guards against "hobby horses" or avoiding certain topics.
- **Caution:** Topical sermons can be expository. However, it's wise for the regular diet of teaching to be sequential exposition through Bible books.

² <https://www.9marks.org/answer/what-expositional-sermon/>

The Importance of Holding Fast to the Word...Together

- The Need for Perseverance
 - Many churches have abandoned or distorted preaching and teaching. Present faithfulness is not a guarantee of future faithfulness!
 - **2 Timothy 4:3-4** ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.
- Endurance
 - **2 Timothy 4:5** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
 - **Isaiah 40:8** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
 - **Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- Your Role in Holding Fast
 - Be like the Bereans! **Acts 17:10-12** ¹⁰The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹²Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.
 - Only affirm elders who practice Biblical preaching and teaching.
 - Be in the Word daily, and seek to know God through his Word.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Matthew 24:35

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is biblical preaching and teaching the most important trait of the church?
2. How is the Bible different from an instruction manual? (See 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
3. How would you respond to someone who says that the Bible is outdated and irrelevant?
4. What does it mean for a sermon to be expository?
5. What is the benefit of preaching through books of the Bible?