

The Art of Expository Teaching

The Art of Expository Teaching

Crafting an Effective Message that Stays Faithful to the Text



The Process of Studying the Bible

- 1) Preparation
- 2) Observation
 - Always Remember the Big Picture.
 - Choose a Biblical Book.
 - Read up on the Book's Background.
 - Read through the Book Multiple Times.
 - Identify the Paragraphs (Prose) or Sections (Poetry).
- Make Observations and Ask Questions of the Text.
- Look up all proper nouns.
- Analyze the grammar.
- Identify a preliminary theme.
- Look up Cross References.
- Study the Key Words.
- 3) Meditation
- 4) Interpretation
- 5) Evaluation
- 6) Application

The Role of Exegesis

Preaching an expository message involves far more than standing in the pulpit and reviewing the high points, details, and components unearthed through research. Neither a word study nor a running commentary on a passage is, in itself, an expository sermon. An expository sermon does more than simply explain the grammatical structure of a passage and the meanings of its words.

John MacArthur

The Role of Exegesis

The task of the expository preacher is to take the mass of raw data from the text and bridge the gap between exegesis and exposition.

John MacArthur

The Key Elements of Expository Teaching

- 1) Truth → in content
 - Explanation
 - Argumentation
 - Illustration
 - Application.
- 2) Clarity → in structure
 - One truth (proposition)
 - Order (outline)
 - Transitions
 - Introductions and conclusions
- 3) Passion → in delivery



I. Truth in Content

The Art of Expository Teaching

Exegesis to Expository Message

Exegesis

- Theme
- Syntactical Structure
- Historical, grammatical detail

Expository Message

- Proposition
- Outline
- The Body of the Message

II. Clarity in Structure

A Summary of Pursuing Clarity through Structure

- Write out the main theme
- Structure the message
- Build the body
- Create a logical flow
- Write an introduction and conclusion
- Format your notes

Write Out the Main Theme

- The Heart of Our Responsibility
 - 1) Find the biblical author's central theme.
 - 2) Understand how he develops that theme.
 - 3) Make that theme and his development central to our message.



Write Out the Main Theme

- Sermon reduced to one sentence
- Theme of passage
- Form: timeless truth
- Concise & clear



The Necessary Components of a Proposition

- A Concise statement of the timeless truth of the passage
- An interrogative
- A transitional sentence
 - Links the proposition & the main points
 - Includes a key word—a plural noun



The Art of Expository Teaching

The Proposition: an Example

(Adapted from Vine & Shaddix)

- **2 Tim. 2:2** – “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
- **The Exegetical theme:** “Paul charged Timothy to faithfully pass the treasure of sound doctrine to the next generation.”
- **Timeless Truth:** “Christian leaders must faithfully pass the treasure of sound doctrine to the next generation.”
- **Interrogative:** “But how do we accomplish that task?”
- **Transition:** “Paul identifies the key **principles** involved in building a ministry to last, or creating a legacy of faithful men.”
 - Employ the Right Method
 - Impart the Right Content
 - Pick the Right Men
 - Pursue the Right Goals

The Proposition: an Example

- **1 Cor. 3:9-17**
- **1) Timeless Truth:**
 - Be careful how you build!
- **2) Interrogative in statement form:**
 - But Paul does more here than give us a warning; he tells us how to build.
- **3) Transitional Sentence:**
 - He gives us three **foundational instructions** for how to build the church.
 - Build on the Right Foundation
 - Use the Right Materials
 - Remember the Rightful Owner

Structure the Message: The Main Divisions

- Principles for creating
 - Reflect syntactical analysis
 - Grow out of the proposition
 - Define the key word
 - Contain no overlap
 - Show progression
 - Be limited in number
 - Parallel
 - Timeless principle form



Structure the Message: The Types of Outlines

- Directives – imperative
- Statements/questions – indicative
- Markers of the text



Directives: the Imperative Mood

- **1 Cor. 3:9-17**
 - 1) Build on the Right Foundation
 - 2) Use the Right Materials
 - 3) Remember the Rightful Owner



Statements/Questions: the Indicative Mood

- **Eph. 4:2-16 – Preserving the Unity of the Church**
- **II. Focus on the Basis on our Unity (4:4-6)**
 - We share a Common Life. (one body)
 - We share a Common Origin. (one Spirit)
 - We share a Common Future. (one hope)
 - We share a Common Master. (one Lord)
 - We share a Common Belief. (one faith)
 - We share a Common Confession. (one baptism)
 - We share a Common God & Father (one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.)

The Art of Expository Teaching

Statements/Questions: the Indicative Mood

- **III. Work on Christ's Plan for Unity (4:7-16)**
 - **B. The Components of Christ's Plan (4:7-12)**
 - 1) Christ Distributes Spiritual Gifts to the Church (7-10)
 - 2) Christ Appoints the Leaders of the Church (11)
 - 3) The Leaders Equip the Members of the Church (12a)
 - 4) The Members Accomplish the Ministry of the Church (12b)
 - 5) The Plan Results in the Growth of the Church (12c)

Statements/Questions: the Indicative Mood

- **C. The Goal of Christ's Plan (4:13)**
 - 1) When Will We Reach the Goal?
 - 2) Who Will Reach the Goal?
 - 3) How do we Reach the Goal?
 - 4) What is the Goal?

Markers of the Text

- An Example...
 - The Command
 - The Method
 - The Results
- **Mark 2:18-22**
 - A Specific Question about Fasting (18)
 - A Specific Answer about Fasting (19-20)
 - A General Principle about Jesus' Kingdom (21-22)

Markers of the Text

- **Matthew 18:23-35**
 - A Picture of God's Forgiveness of Us
 - A Picture of Our Unwillingness to Forgive Others
- **The Parable of the Soils**
 - The Unreceptive Heart
 - The Superficial Heart
 - The Preoccupied Heart
 - The Prepared Heart

Build the Body of the Message

- Explanation
- Argumentation
- Illustration
- Application



Explanation

"this is what it says & what it means"

- From context
- From syntax
- From word studies
- From historical data
- From theological issues



The Art of Expository Teaching

Argumentation

"this is why you should believe it"

- Primary tools
 - Scripture
 - Exegetical detail
 - Parallel passages
 - Supporting passages
 - Logic
 - Authorities
 - Commentaries
 - Systematic Theologies
 - Church History
 - Quotations from Expositors



Illustration

"this is what it looks like"

"Only a combination of vanity and blasphemy could convince a man that the matter [of illustrating the truth] was beneath his notice"

W. E. Sangster

The Misuse of Illustrations

- Manipulate the emotions
- Relate an interesting story
- Pad a poorly prepared message
- Get a laugh



The Legitimate Use of Illustrations

Illustrate—comes from a Latin word meaning "to let the light in"



The Presentation of an Illustration

- Make the point
- Transition to illustration
- Illustrate
- Transition to audience
- Restate or review the point



The Best Source of Illustrations

Scripture Itself

- The teaching text itself
 - Actual illustrations
 - Allusions/word pictures
 - Picturesque uses of Gr. or Heb. word
- Cross references
 - NASB
 - Treasury of Scripture Knowledge
 - Torrey's Topical Textbook



The Art of Expository Teaching

The Pitfalls of Illustrations

- Using the same kind
- Announcing the illustration
- Undermining your credibility
- Using yourself constantly
- Appearing to reveal confidences
- Embarrassing others
- Presenting inaccurate information
- Not giving credit



Application

"this is what you should do with it"

Preaching is essentially a personal encounter, in which the preacher's will is making a claim through the truth upon the will of the hearer. If there is no summons, there is no sermon.

John A. Broadus

The Guiding Principles of Application

- Flow from authorial intent
- Suited to the audience
- Placed where best suited to text



The Definition of Application

(from John Broadus)

- Focusing the claims of truth
- Suggesting ways and means
- Persuading to vital response



Sources for Application

- The text itself
- Your own spiritual experiences
- Observation of the culture
- Observation of the people you serve
- Commentaries and other resources



Writing the Message: Three Stages

- Collecting the possible data
- Creating a rough sketch
- Writing the message



The Art of Expository Teaching

Draft 1

Draft 2

Checking the Balance

Create a Logical Flow

Transition may be formally defined as both the act and means of moving from one part of the sermon to another, from one division to another, and from one idea to another. Transitions are to sermons what joints are to the bones of the body. They are the bridges of the discourse, and by them the preacher moves from point to point.

John A. Broadus

The Purposes of a Transition

- Emphasis
- Movement
- Logic
- Introduction

The Components of a Transition

- A brief review statement
- A transition word
- A question or statement re: next point
- The key plural noun
- E.g., 1 Cor. 3:9-17
 - There's one last instruction [key word] Paul gives to us as the leaders of His church. Not only 1) build on the right foundation, and 2) use the right materials, [review] but also [transition word]...

The Art of Expository Teaching

The Introduction

- Must be designed to:
 1. Secure interest
 2. Create a need
 3. Introduce the theme
- Should be written out



The Conclusion

- Objectives
 1. To summarize the message; review passage theme and major divisions
 2. To apply the truth; aimed at the will of the listener



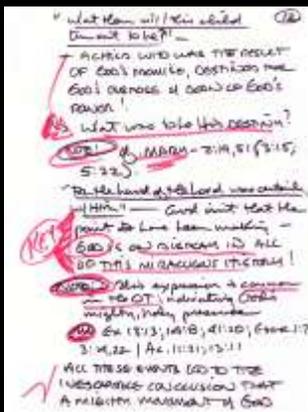
The Conclusion

- Other Issues:
 - Written out
 - Unannounced
 - No new material
 - An appeal to unbelievers to repent



Format Your Notes

- Form
- Style
 - 1) Manuscript
 - Full
 - Detailed outline
 - 2) Simple Speaking Outline
 - 3) Extemporeous
- Paper Size
- Highlighting/underlining



John MacArthur



Steve Lawson

The Art of Expository Teaching

John Piper

Adrian Rogers

Tom Pennington

III. Passion in Delivery

Delivery Defined

- In *Lectures on Preaching* Phillips Brooks defined preaching as the communication of divine truth through human personality.
- Martin Lloyd-Jones defined preaching as "a proclamation of the truth of God as mediated through the preacher."

The Primary Principles

- A. Clarity
 - Single theme
 - Simple Outline
 - Transitional Statements
 - Clear Words & Plain Grammar
- B. Enlargement
- C. Passion
- D. Authority
 - Godly Character
 - Authorial Intent
 - Second-Person
 - Supporting Passages

The Art of Expository Teaching

Delivery: The Specific Components

- Voice – variety in pitch, volume, and intensity
- Gestures – natural and enlarged
- Eye contact – balanced view of audience
- Appearance – clean, appropriate, undistracting
- Audience participation—varies by venue



A Summary of Delivery

"Be natural; forget yourself, be so absorbed in what you are doing and in the realization of the presence of God, and in the glory and the greatness of the Truth that you are preaching . . . that you forget yourself completely . . . Self is the greatest enemy of the preacher, more so than the case of any other man in society. And the only way to deal with self is to be so taken up with, and so enraptured by, the glory of what you are doing, that you forget yourself altogether."

Lloyd-Jones

Reviewing the Process



The Process of Studying the Bible

- 1) Preparation
- 2) Observation
 - Always Remember the Big Picture.
 - Choose a Biblical Book.
 - Read up on the Book's Background.
 - Read through the Book Multiple Times.
 - Identify the Paragraphs (Prose) or Sections (Poetry).
- Make Observations and Ask Questions of the Text.
- Look up all proper nouns.
- Analyze the grammar.
- Identify a preliminary theme.
- Look up Cross References.
- Study the Key Words.
- 3) Meditation
- 4) Interpretation
- 5) Evaluation
- 6) Application

The Key Elements of a Biblical Message

- 1) Truth in Content
- 2) Clarity in Structure
- 3) Passion in Delivery

The Process of Preparing an Expository Message

- 1) Write the Proposition
- 2) Structure the Lesson
- 3) Build the Body of the Message
 - Explanation—"this is what it says and what it means"
 - Argumentation—"this is why you should believe it"
 - Illustration—"this is what it looks like"
 - Application—"this is what you should do with it"
- 4) Create a Logical Flow
- 5) Add an Introduction and Conclusion
- 6) Format your Teaching Notes

The Art of Expository Teaching

The Delivery of an Expository Message

- 1) Clarity
- 2) Enlargement
- 3) Passion
- 4) Authority

1 Peter 4:11

“Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God...so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”