
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
ITEM Conference on Ministry and Preaching
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EXPOSITORY PREACHING DEFINED AND EXPLAINED

Preaching Lecture #7

Introduction: We believe the Bible is God's inspired and infallible Word (2 Tim 3:16). We believe it is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb 4:12). We also believe that the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to transform lives. Finally, we believe that expository preaching is the most effective way to communicate God's Word in such a way that it is understood and applied.

I. EXPOSITORY PREACHING DEFINED: God has spoken and is speaking to us in His Word. Expository preaching is to preach with the intention of reading, explaining, and applying what God has said to us in a passage of Scripture. See Nehemiah 8 for an example.

II. EXPOSITORY PREACHING EXPLAINED

- A. Expository preaching is not mainly a type or style.
 - 1. It begins with a belief in the absolute authority of Scripture.
 - 2. It is a commitment to hear God in His Word.
 - 3. An expository sermon is more concerned with biblical content than the form of the sermon or the style of the preacher.
- B. Expository preaching builds submission to the Word of God not to a preacher's knowledge.
 - 1. If a preacher is not studying the Bible in order to teach what it says and what it means then no sermon will go beyond what the preacher already knows.
 - 2. The preacher who reads one or two verses and speaks on a topic that is not really the main point of the verses or passage, the preacher and the congregation will hear only what they already know. What they already know is what the preacher has told them before.
 - 3. When the preacher is going through Scripture week by week, going from chapter to chapter he will usually be explaining things that he and the congregation have not heard before. They will hear about sin in their life, the need for repentance

in that area and instructions about how to live a Christ-like life.

4. If the church does not insist that the pastor preach expository sermons, going from book to book and chapter by chapter, then the church will never advance beyond the level of the pastor and will become conformed to the pastor's way of thinking and living rather than Jesus' way of thinking and living.
- C. God has always created his people by His written Word (the Scriptures) and the Living Word (Christ).
1. Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ (Rom 10:17)
 2. God uses preaching to save those who believe (1 Cor 1:21).
 3. Good expositional preaching is an important part of spiritual growth in a church.
- D. The importance of the act preaching
1. We must understand that the preaching of the Word is at the center of our worship.
 2. Praise, thanksgiving, and confession of sin should be our responses to the preaching of the Word of God.
 3. A church that centers everything on singing and dancing will be a church that is being built on the wrong foundation.