

Rediscover Church • Week 4 • Preaching & Teaching

1) What is the best speech you've ever heard or read, or what is your favorite speech?
(Could be historical, could be one you heard live...)

2) What, to you, are the ingredients of a fantastic sermon?

“Other men my preach the gospel better than I, but no man can preach a better gospel.”

- George Whitefield, 18th Century evangelist who led the Great Awakening and was a founder of the evangelical church movement. He preached at least 18,000 times to perhaps 10 million listeners in Great Britain and the American colonies.

3) Read Matthew 7:28-29. Where does a preacher or teacher's authority come from?

4) How important is the “presentation” or “performance” aspect of preaching?

5) Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5, esp. v2. In the book (pg.67), the authors write that it's important to look for preachers who love you enough to both CUT you and STITCH YOU UP as necessary, like a good surgeon. Why are both aspects important, the “cutting” and the “stitching?” What happens when one or the other of these things are neglected over time?

6) To what degree should the preacher/teacher be able to “interpret the congregation” in addition to the ability to rightly interpret the word of God? Why might this be important? What implications might this have for the various ways we can now easily watch sermons on TV or through screens, sometimes without being in the same church as the preacher? (For context on this question, read in the book from the very bottom of page 64 to page 68...)

7) *“In the end, preaching isn't just about transmitting information.”* (pg.66) Why is this true? What causes a sermon or lesson to go beyond the mere transmission of information? How is preaching different than a message from a self-help guru? What is the goal of preaching and teaching?

8) What is the Holy Spirit's role in preaching and teaching?

- What is the Spirit's role in the preacher/teacher? ... And within the listener?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for all those who preach and teach the word of God in our church, at every age level and in every context (classes, small groups, in our families, etc.).

- Ask the Lord to give us an increasingly receptive heart and willing spirit, that we will obey and be changed by God's Word whenever it is preached or taught to us.
- Pray for our church's search for our next senior minister.Christians. Pray for those who are looking for a place to connect, grow, and serve.