

SECTION 4 - DELIVERY
Chapter 11 - Preaching Style

I. Introduction

A. The Importance of Delivery

1. While the content of the message is primary, your work is useless if it is not transmitted

"The effectiveness of our sermon depends upon two things
what we say, and how we say it" (Robinson)

2. The first thing that strikes the senses of your hearers is not what you say, but how you say it.

B. Basic Principles for Delivery

1. Delivery should parallel and grow out of content at every point.

a. Before one can worry about presentation skills, his purpose must be crystal clear, and the message must be well organized.

b. The speaker must be affected by his message.

"Preaching is truth mediated through personality" (Brooks)

"The whole personality of the preacher must be involved" (Lloyd-Jones)

c. Delivery is the natural expression of the speaker's emotions as he relives (not merely reports) his content.

2. The speaker must utilize every means available to convey his message. He spends himself. II Tim. 4:6

3. Variety in every aspect of delivery is vital for maintaining the attention of hearers.

4. As with other skills, delivery is learned through time and experience.

a. Some are more naturally gifted

b. Through hard work tremendous progress can be made.

C. Each Person Will Develop a Style of Delivery to Particularly Fit His Gifts and Personality.

1. Be Yourself.

a. Don't slavishly imitate others.

b. Don't pretend to be something you aren't.

2. God uses a great variety of styles and personalities! I Cor. 2:1

II. Develop Your Preaching Style

A. Recognize Differences Between Spoken and Written English.

1. Spoken English uses sentences which are shorter and less complex in structure.

2. Spoken English uses a simpler vocabulary, usually with fewer syllables.

3. Spoken English is more colorful and concrete.

4. Spoken English uses more repetition, and needs a more explicit structure.
5. Spoken English is less precise.
6. Spoken English can express meaning through vocal expression, gestures, etc.

B. Choose Your Words Carefully Prov. 25:11

1. Use the common language of the marketplace, not the scholarly vocabulary of the academy. I Cor. 2:1ff
2. Strive to use words which are concrete, vivid, and precise.
 - a. Appeal to all five senses.
 - b. Don't be afraid to use non-dictionary words and sounds.
3. Beware of:
 - a. Technical or specialized jargon
 - b. Overusing superlatives
 - c. Slang
 - d. Trite expressions, cliches, and overused terms
 - e. Preachy language
4. Develop your vocabulary so that you can choose the right word.

C. Build Clear Sentences

1. Sentences should be brief.
 - a. Avoid compound and complex sentences
 - b. Don't interrupt yourself
2. Vary sentence length and structure in order to avoid a monotonous rhythm.
3. Incorrect Grammar will distract your hearers, and may undermine their confidence in you.

D. Your Goal is Fluency

"The ability to pick the right words at high speed and to put them together into easily understood and dynamic speech" (Adams)

E. Style - Other Considerations

1. While your content should challenge the deepest thinker in the audience, your words should be understood by the simplest.

"Don't overestimate the people's vocabulary, or underestimate their intelligence"
(Robinson)
2. You will adapt your style to the particular audience and occasion.
3. Your sermon notes are crucial for delivery. They can be a help or a hinderance.
 - a. They should be written in spoken English.
 - b. They must be brief

III. Conclusion

Assignment for Section 3, Chapter 11

1. Listen to a Cassette Tape or Radio Broadcast of a well known speaker
 - A. Does he use good "Spoken English"?
 - B. Did he Speak to the Level of his Audience?
2. Listen to a Tape of Yourself Teaching or Preaching and Answer the Same Two Questions.