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Title: Delivering a Sermon

Introduction: _____

The delivery of the sermon is the most dynamic moment of the preaching experience. In that moment, all sermon preparation is brought to _____ or _____. If the sermon is delivered effectively, the preacher, with grateful joy, forgets the hours of toil in preparation. But if the sermon fails, all the labor and study will seem like a heavy and useless _____.

The Gospel is a _____ Gospel. Thus, a sermon is not a sermon until it is _____. A minister is not a preacher until the message is communicated to others.

In spite of its importance, delivery is often _____ by preachers. They spend little time trying to _____ this area. If you are convinced of the centrality of preaching, you will always be looking to improve your delivery in preaching.

1. The Preacher's Personality

A. The "first law" of preaching is be _____

B. The preacher's emotions

- 1 Delivery does not start with the voice or body, but with the spiritual _____ of the preacher.
- 2 Your level of spirituality will be seen in your eyes, your face, your voice, your gestures, your posture, and your attitude toward the audience.
- 3 If there is a _____ between emotion and statement, emotion will be the most powerful and the most evident.

- 4 You cannot hide fear, anger, bitterness, joy, etc.
- 5 A preacher will be most effective in delivery when speaking from a sense of _____ purpose and conviction.
- 6 The preacher must work at maintaining his _____.
 - a Poise is disturbed by _____. The size of the crowd, the attitude of the crowd, the content of the sermon, etc.
 - b Lack of poise is easily _____ by the audience. Flushed face, unsteady hands or knees, rapid or shallow breathing, a dry mouth, strained pitch, etc. Extreme fear can result in forgetfulness or absolute inability to speak.
- 7 Don't look for fear to be totally _____. Tension makes for readiness and zest in delivery.
- 8 Ways to improve poise:
 - a Thorough preparation
 - b Concern for your audience
 - c Reliance upon God
 - d A good attitude toward the situation
 - e Physical relaxation, especially the throat area

2. The Tools of the Trade

A. The preacher's voice

- 1 Proper _____
 - a The preacher's most important tool is his _____.
 - b Taking care of your voice is part of the obligation you accept when you answer the call to preach.
 - c Good speaking voices are _____. You can train yourself to speak well.
- 2 The production of _____
 - a Respiration
 - 1) Respiration is the act of _____. Steadiness of vocalization, projection, rate, pitch, and poise all depend in part on proper breathing.

- 2) Breathing for preaching should be diaphragmatic or abdominal.
- 3) Air must be taken in quickly and expelled slowly.
- 4) Proper posture will aid in maintaining proper breathing.

b Phonation

- 1) Phonation involves pitch, range, and inflection.
- 2) Improper use of phonation will cause you to _____ your voice.
- 3) Your normal speaking relaxed voice is your normal pitch. You can vary that pitch or range or inflection for emphasis, but not as a norm.
- 4) The change of pitch will help with expressiveness and interpretation.

c Resonation

- 1) Resonation has to do with the _____ of your voice.
- 2) A nasal or harsh sound, or a breathy sound, can be distracting to the audience.

d Articulation

- 1) Sounds are shaped into words by the tongue, lips, and teeth.
- 2) Clearness of speech is important to communication and essential in preaching.
- 3) Articulation has as much to do with being understood as it does with volume or loudness.
- 4) _____ - failure to open your mouth, or lack of flexibility in your facial area, will add up to a failure in articulation.

e Rate

- 1) Rate will need to _____ with the size of the audience, the acoustics of the building, and the nature of the sermon.

- 2) Generally, the larger the crowd and the more difficult the acoustics, the _____ the rate must be.
 - 3) Often the sermon material will determine the rate.
 - 4) A good rule of thumb is this: “Proper rate is varied and rapid enough to show vitality, yet slow enough to assure distinct articulation.
 - 5) The “dramatic _____” is a good tool for emphasis.
- f Projection
- 1) Projection affords a strong, round tone from the diaphragm—not from the throat.
 - 2) By _____, the preacher can speak with correct volume and force without changing the basic quality of the sound or damaging his voice.
- g Variety
- 1) We must avoid monotone or a _____ of speech.
 - 2) Our goal is a _____ delivery.

B. The preacher’s body

- 1 Preaching involves more than your _____
 - a If a perfect preacher existed, no one would know it, because the perfect preacher is one whose delivery is _____ in communication.
 - b Incorrect use of the body will call _____ to itself rather than the message.
 - c The preacher cannot afford to preach two sermons (one with his voice and the other with his body).
 - d The best speaker is one who speaks _____ the body and thus by using his total personality communicates the message.
 - e Don’t be chained to certain _____. The body action should be motivated by the message.

2 Appearance

- a First _____ are important. You are preaching before you ever _____.
- b Your dress should always be _____.
- c Three rules: _____, _____, and _____.

3 Posture

- a Your posture begins with how you _____ on the platform.
- b Exhibit _____. You should show interest in everything taking place in the service.
- c Once in the pulpit, your weight should be distributed evenly on your feet. Avoid swaying back and forth or rocking on your toes.
- d Don't slouch, and work on keeping your hands out of your _____.

4 Eye contact

- a The eye is the window into the _____. You must at least give the impression that you are looking at your listeners.
- b Don't look at _____ person too long. Keep your eyes moving across the congregation.
- c Avoid looking at the floor, the ceiling, out the window, etc.
- d Good eye contact gives the audience the assurance of your desire to _____.

5 Gestures

- a Gestures involve the whole body—the arms and hands, but also the head, the shoulders, and the eyes.
- b Gestures should be motivated from _____.
- c Gestures should be coordinated with the rest of the body and flow out of the message.
- d Gestures should be _____ to the occasion, the size of the crowd, and the nature of the sermon.

- e Gestures should be _____. Don't get into a rut.
- f There are four conventional gestures:
- 1) _____ finger: location and mild emphasis.
 - 2) A clenched _____: dramatic and strong emphasis.
 - 3) The palms _____: affirmative and pleading emotion.
 - 4) The palms _____: disapproval, rejection, or contempt.
- g There are three planes of gestures:
- 1) The _____ plane: From the shoulder up—the most powerful and reverent thought.
 - 2) The _____ plane: From the shoulders to the waist—most often used and where all emotions can be expressed adequately.
 - 3) The _____ plane: From the waist down—negative thoughts.
- h General body movement
- 1) Too much body movement is _____. Changes in position should be natural.
 - 2) A change in position can be especially effective when making a _____ in the sermon.
 - 3) Mannerisms should be _____ such as tugging at your clothing, hands in pockets, hands behind you, leaning on the pulpit, etc. Any of these can be used for emphasis.
 - 4) It doesn't hurt to videotape yourself preaching to see what you look like to the audience.

Conclusion: _____

Delivery is something that is hard to _____ because it has to come from within, being motivated by your message. If there is no voice inflection, body movement, raised volume, etc., the message probably doesn't _____ much to you. But when there is a "fire" burning in your bones that has to get out, it will be evident in your delivery.

Don't try to _____ someone else, but watch others as they preach. What is effective in their delivery that you would feel comfortable doing? As a future preacher, don't just listen to preachers—_____ them.

Be yourself, but be willing to _____ yourself to be more effective in preaching.

Delivery is that which draws the audience into the Truth that you are preaching. It is vital that we develop this area. Charles Finney was once asked by a New York newspaper if they could print his sermons. He replied, "Sure you can print the sermon, but you can't print the fire!"



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