

# DISTINCTIVE: EXPOSITORY PREACHING

---

## I. What is \_\_\_\_\_ preaching?

- A. An expository sermon differs from these other types of sermons.
  - 1. *Anecdotal*—A sermon that primarily tells engaging stories with a moral lesson.
  - 2. *Biographical*—A sermon that traces the life of a Biblical characters and draws contemporary applications.
  - 3. *Topical*— A sermon that has a topic in mind prior to consulting the text, and then searches for one or more biblical texts that address the topic chosen beforehand.
  - 4. *Textual*—A sermon that refers often to a particular Biblical text but does not take the main point of the text as its own.
- B. Expository preaching takes the main point of the text as the main point of the sermon.
- C. Expository preaching takes the logic of the text and communicates it through the outline of sermon.
- D. Expository preaching is authoritative (since the main point and supporting points are the same as what God intended).
- E. Expository preaching is practical and exhortative.
- F. Expository preaching is Christ-centered and God-centered.

## II. Why do we practice expository preaching as a regular \_\_\_\_\_ at Crossway Church?

- G. Expository preaching keeps the preacher from sticking with his own hobbyhorses.
- H. Expository preaching is intellectually safer for the preacher.

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

- I. God inspires not only the ideas in Scripture, but also the exact words and logic to communicate those ideas.

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

- J. Expository preaching promotes the truth that God's Word performs what it prescribes.

### **Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

### **Isaiah 55:10–12**

**10** "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. **12** "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

### **John 17:17**

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

### **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

### **James 1:18 & 21**

**18** Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures... **21** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

### **1 Peter 1:23–25**

**23** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

- K. Expository preaching trains the preacher and listener to accept what God says no matter what He says.
- L. Expository preaching teaches and reminds us that everything God says is relevant.

- M. Expository preaching equips the church to study and properly interpret Scripture.
- N. Expository preaching properly communicates the authority of God.

### **Titus 2:15**

Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

*If preachers preach their own word, the congregation may listen politely but has every right to disregard the sermon as just another person's opinion.... Accordingly, if preachers wish to preach with divine authority...they must submit themselves, their thoughts and opinions, to the Scriptures and echo the word of God....Preaching with authority is synonymous with true expository preaching.*

—Sidney Greidanus<sup>1</sup>

- O. Expository preaching prevents the shepherds and the sheep from focusing on their perceived felt needs.

*“The Scripture tells us, “the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths” (II Tim. 4:3-4). The failure to listen expositionally has disastrous effects. False teachers enter the church and hinder the gospel, and ultimately, the truth is displaced by myths and falsehoods. Where members cultivate the habit of expositional listening, they guard themselves against “itching ears” and they protect the gospel from corruption.”*

—Thabiti Anyabwile

- P. Expository preaching shows humility before God Whose will is preeminent.

*“Expositional listening [preaching] helps us to focus on God's will and to follow Him. Our agenda becomes secondary. The preacher's agenda becomes secondary. God's agenda for His people takes center stage, reorders our priorities, and directs us in the course that most honors Him. The Lord himself proclaimed, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Listening to the voice of Jesus as it is heard in His word is critical to following Him.”*

—Thabiti Anyabwile

- Q. Expository preaching brings unity in the church.

---

<sup>1</sup> Quoted by Mark Dever in *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* [Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004], p. 40.

