

Dynamics of Preaching

“Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him”
(Acts 28:31).

Dynamics of Preaching—what is that? Some refer to it as “homiletics”—the science or “art of composing and preaching sermons.” This sounds too scientific, conjuring up pictures of a man wearing a lab coat, disheveled hair, and big glasses, in a room full of apparatus. He is searching for a solution to some mind-boggling problem.

Then there is a picture of the artist in front of a large easel, paint all over his hands, making strokes of color against a blank canvas, knowing that eventually something beautiful will be created.

Preachers are more than “homilists” (people who write and deliver sermons). Preaching is more than a science: “knowledge of facts and laws arranged in an orderly system.” The only definition of “science” that comes close to matching the intention of preaching is, “the search for truth.” Now, I do like that!

A preacher is more than an “artist”: “someone that paints pictures” (although preachers do paint word pictures to get their point across). Another definition of an “artist” is a “public performer, especially an actor...” Preachers should never be like that (although some may be close).

There is one definition of an “artist” that comes close to preaching and the preacher—“a person who does work with skill and good taste.” How the world longs for preaching that is crafted to fit the need of the human heart, the result of skill, and study. So, preaching is more than an art: “a form of human activity appealing to the imagination...” “Or a branch of learning that depends more on special practice than on general principles.” Preaching and preachers aim at appealing to the mind, and heart of listeners to bring about transformation, spiritual growth, and maturity. Preaching involves general principles and dynamics.

Before we move on let us pause to say, “Thanks!” to *The World Book Dictionary* for help with the definitions used in this lesson. Having said that, we are now back to the first line of this lesson—“Dynamics of Preaching”—what is that?

“Dynamics” has to do with a force that produces motion. Think of dynamics and chances are that dynamite, explosions, and the flow of electricity flash through your mind. “Dynamic” is something that is active, energetic, forceful, potent, powerful, and effective.

The world needs preaching that produces motion in lives, moving them toward God. Preaching should be active, alive, and powerful—“For the word of God is living power. It is sharper than

the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are" (Hebrews 4:12, *NLT*).

Preaching is active.

"For the word of God is living and active" (Hebrews 4:12, *NIV*). Preaching keeps the church alive.

"When the prophets are silent and the Word of God is in short supply, the Church withers and dies." (Michael Harper).

Preaching is more than a science, or an art, it is the use of the Surgeon's knife.

"His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey" (Hebrews 4:12, *The Message*).

Preaching is powerful.

"Dynamic" comes from a Greek word that means "power." Preacher be alive, active, and passionate in your preaching. Preach God's Word with authority for it is the "power of God at work, saving everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16, *NLT*).

When you preach there is power that backs you up, a force that produces motion. This force is God's Word, His Spirit, His unction, and His anointing on your life.

Preaching rescues.

Preaching brings the "power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). One sermon, anointed with the power of the Spirit, was responsible for 3,000 being added to the church in one day. It can happen again. Oh, Lord, let it happen again!

Preaching rescues those on the road to destruction, reconciles them with their Creator, and moves them to salvation.

"I know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds to those who are on the road to destruction. But we who are being saved recognize this message as the very power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18, *NLT*).

Preaching is exciting—never boring.

Well, it should never be boring. Some have the gift (or the curse) of making the most exciting book in the world a big bore. God forbid that we ever make preaching time on Sunday morning a reason for weary members to take a snooze.

A preacher once put his hand down on a wasp (bee) on the pulpit, was stung, and let out a yell that could be heard all over the church. An excited listener in the congregation nudged his companion, and said, "I'm going to like this preacher!"

Preaching should not cause our listeners to become sleeping saints.

Preaching is to be effective, life changing; not boring. Preaching should be dynamic!

A preacher noticed that an older man had fallen asleep in the middle of the preaching. He said to the small boy sitting beside him, "Son, would you please wake up your grandfather?"

The boy retorted, "Why don't you wake him up? You put him to sleep!"

So far we have dealt with some generalities about preaching. Now it is time for specifics. Let us move to our next lesson, and look at "What is preaching?" Before leaving, allow a final word about the difference preaching should make.

Preaching matters.

Ed Rowell in *Preaching with Spiritual Passion* speaks for all who have been entrusted with a message to preach. He writes, "Let me state my bias up front. Preaching matters. Preaching changes lives. Preaching is a big deal. I believe God has gifted, called, even compelled certain of His children to be His mouthpieces, to rightly divide the Word of truth, to love those to whom they preach, to proclaim the Good News like it really is good news, to stand with confidence and boldly say, 'Thus saith the Lord.'"

Study Questions

1. What is "homiletics"? _____

2. What does "dynamic" mean? _____

3. How does preaching relate to the definition of science? _____

4. How is a preacher like an artist? _____

