

The Difference Between Preaching and Teaching

IMPORTANT: If you don't understand the difference between these 2 modes of presentation of Kingdom information, you'll be totally misled in your attitude towards what you believe is important.

PREACHING - is the message presentation for non-believers

TEACHING - is the message presentation for believers

Take these two references as examples:

Romans 10:14-15a (NKJV) – *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?*

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) – *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

Preaching is about presenting the Gospel of the Kingdom to non-believers so that they hear the good news of the Kingdom and decide whether they wish to enter it.

Teaching is about informing believers of Kingdom truths so they are disciplined and trained in what matters for their lives as Kingdom citizens. The most important part of this is the impartation of sound doctrine. This is what Paul instructed Timothy¹ and Titus² to do, and it was the important skill for leaders to have³.

Preachers and preaching should never be found in believers' meetings. Believers don't need to hear preaching as they are already converted. These meetings are for mutual support, not for outreach.

Here's the problem: Paul wrote that “we preach Christ crucified”⁴. If we don't know the difference between preaching and teaching then we'll expect church meetings to focus on the crucifixion of Christ as it's most important tenet. **This is wrong.** Paul preached this focus to non-believers and found that it was a stumbling block to many. It's never a stumbling-block to those who already believe.

Teaching in gatherings of the *ekklesia* should be about maturing the believers, not focussing backwards on the foundations of belief.

Take note of these:

Hebrews 6:1-3 (AMP) – *Therefore let us get past the elementary stage in the teachings about the Christ, advancing on to maturity and perfection and spiritual completeness, [doing this] without laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of teaching about washings (ritual purifications), the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. [These are all important matters in which you should have been proficient long ago.] And we will do this [that is, proceed to maturity], if God permits.*

Ephesians 4:12-16 (Living Bible) – *Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ. Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or has cleverly lied to us and made*

1 – 1 Timothy 4:11, 6:2

2 – Titus 2:1

3 – 1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:24; Titus 1:9

4 – 1 Corinthians 1:23 (NKJV)

the lie sound like the truth. Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly—and so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of his body, the Church.

So, it's not about focussing on the blood and the cross as some have insisted. That's part of religious practice.

REMEMBER: Teaching is to mature the saints and preaching is to reach non-believers.

This is a very important distinction that we must understand so we can break out of the repetitive childish training we've had in the past.

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