

Preaching Like Peter and Paul

1Corinthians 2:1-5

1Cor. 2:1-5

- “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

Preaching Like Peter and Paul

- Preaching is the means God ordained to communicate the most important message this world will ever receive
 - 1Cor. 1:17-24
 - Rom. 10:14, 17 - “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? ... 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

What Should Be Avoided In Preaching

- Emotive oratory
 - 1Cor. 2:1, 4 - “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God... 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom”

What Should Be Avoided In Preaching

- Since the point is to get the gospel into the hearts of the hearer, the preacher must use the speech tools that are most effective for his hearers, not for himself
 - A Trio of Sightless Rodents or Three Blind Mice?
 - Scintillate, Scintillate, Diminutive Stellar Sphere or Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star?
 - Propel, Propel, Propel Your Craft or Row, Row, Row Your Boat?
- “I have been called to feed sheep, and not giraffes. I put the cookies on the bottom shelf where the children can reach them.” (D. L. Moody)

What Should Be Avoided In Preaching

- Human wisdom - 1Cor. 2:1
 - Peter and Paul did not preach their opinions or the latest fashionable cultural issue, even if it was popular with the brethren
 - They did not preach their favorite hobby doctrines or bind scruples of conscience on others
 - They were called to preach the gospel

What Should Be Avoided In Preaching

- 2Tim. 4:1-2 - “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”
- 1Cor. 15:3-4 - “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”
- 1Tim. 4:13 - “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

What Should Be Adopted In Preaching

- Trust in God

- 1Cor. 3:5-7 - “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”
- 1Cor. 15:10 - “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”
- 2Cor. 3:5 - “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God”

What Should Be Adopted In Preaching

- Love for souls
 - Rom. 9:1-3 - “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh”

What Should Be Adopted In Preaching

- Reverence for truth

- Psalm 40:9-10 - “I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. 10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.”
- 2Tim. 1:8 - “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God”

What Should Be Affirmed In Preaching

- The testimony of God
 - Acts 20:27 - “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
 - 2Tim. 4:2 - “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”
- Not just the parts you approve of
 - 1Tim. 4:2 - “speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron”

What Should Be Affirmed In Preaching

- Not just the parts that are pleasing to others
 - Gal. 1:10 - “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”
- Not just the parts that are without controversy
 - 2Tim. 4:3 - “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers”

What Should Be Affirmed In Preaching

- The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1Cor. 2:2 - “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”
 - Rom. 4:25 - “who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”
 - 1John 5:12 - “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

Preaching Like Peter and Paul

- When a preacher dies and is laid to rest in the earth, every opinion he ever held passes with him. His prejudices, opinions, personal views will not outlive him. Since they are fleeting, none of those things are worth taking up any preaching time now. The focus of our preaching should be nothing but the whole counsel of the word of God, not one thing more nor one thing less.
- Rev. 22:18-19 - “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”