

Preaching with Passion

Introduction

“Contemporary American preaching tends to be too cognitive. It grows out of a study but not worship; it resembles a lecture but not life. “

- H. Hendricks

1. Symptoms of Pastoral Stagnation

- A. Doubling our efforts while losing sight of our goals.
- B. Scriptures are studied for preparing sermons . . . not ourselves.
- C. We experience spiritual winters in our walk with Christ and no longer feel the meltings of divine love.
- D. Joy in ministry is lost; we go through the motions minus the satisfaction.
- E. Fatigue prevails as duties seem to require extra effort and then some.
- F. Prayer gets assigned low on our “to do” list.
- G. Doubt presents itself with alarming regularity. We question God while questioning ourselves and our call/competency in the ministry.

H. God seems as best distant and at worst absent.

I. Interaction and conversations with others avoid accountability regarding personal faith and spiritual growth.

**Symptoms of Pastoral Stagnation based on: Ben C. Johnson Pastoral Spirituality Westminster Press.*

2. Sources of Pastoral Advancement

“I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.”

- Jeremiah 3:15

A. Ministers after God’s own heart are men in Christ.

B. Ministers after God’s own heart are men sound in the faith.

C. Ministers after God’s own heart are men humble of spirit and faithful in prayer.

D. In a word, ministers after God’s own heart preach Jesus Christ as the aim, scope, and design of their ministry.

3. Topic Components

A. Expository Preaching

“Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through him to his hearers.”

- Haddon Robinson

B. Passionate Preaching

1. Jude vs.3 “earnestly contend for the faith”
2. Acts 4:29 “That your bondservants may speak your Word with all confidence”
3. Mark 1:22 “They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority . . .”
4. Malachi 1:10-14 Vis-a-Vis Jeremiah 25:3-5

I. Insights and Principles (Part 1)

What Passion in Preaching is Not:

A. Passion is not Dramatics

1. Distinguish between true passion and just being wound too tight.
2. Remember and practice 2 Timothy 2:24-25

B. Passion is not Dogmatism

1. Hardening of the categories
2. Romans 10:2 – “A zeal not according to knowledge”

Examples:

Genesis 6:1-8

Haggai 2:7

Passion is baseless when integrity is questioned and authority is forfeited.

C. Passion is not a put-on

1. Developed from within
2. Consistent with oneself
3. Honest to God

II. Insights and Principles (Part 2)

What Passion in Preaching Genuinely is:

A. Passion must always spring out of an unwavering conviction that what we are preaching is true and needs to be heard.

There is nothing so contagious as conviction.

B. Passion in preaching inevitably stems from our own personal love of Jesus Christ.

Beware of being more familiar with the Greek and Hebrew than you are the Savior.

- C. Another cause for earnestness in preaching would be an intimate knowledge of our listeners and a keen sense of their spiritual standing.

“I preach as a dying man to dying men and women as if never to preach again.” – Richmond Baxter

- D. A personal awareness of divine accountability is still more fuel for pulpits aflame.

“We don’t play at preaching.” - Charles Spurgeon

- E. Lastly, a genuine dependence on the Holy Spirit will abundantly fill us with fire.

Recall Acts 2:3 – The Spirit came upon the disciples with tongues as of fire not a block of ice. There is no other way to explain the bold, burning, spirited preaching that was to follow.

III. Implementation and Practice

Passion in Preaching Develops:

- A. When Your spiritual life and walk with the Lord is consistent with your message.
- B. When you preach from the Word and with a clear cut objective.
- C. When you don’t underestimate the Enemy.
- D. When you hemorrhage, wanting your people to bleed.

Conclusion

“What is preaching?” Logic on fire! - D. Martin Lloyd-Jones