

William B. Groben II

2960 Woodpine Court; Sarasota, FL 34231; 941.544.4270; ministry@groben.com

Homiletics Philosophy

The teacher must be able to connect with his listeners, such that they are led into life change through grasping and applying biblical truth. Toward that end, I believe the following guidelines are important.

1. The teacher should be able to craft the sermon or lesson such that it is meaningful and relevant to all levels of spirituality, from the non-believer through the most mature.
2. The teacher should be able to teach theology effectively, making what can be complex and challenging into something that is clear and comprehensible to the members of the church.
3. The teacher should explain the biblical text, focusing on what God is revealing instead of on what men think is important. This does not preclude topical sermons, but the teacher must take care that his selection of passages are accurately presented within their contextual meaning and with regard to an issue about which God has revealed his will.
4. The teacher should be able to explain to the church how God revealed the truths and theology extracted from the biblical text. This will help people learn how to study the Bible for themselves, and help inspire them about the passage in question.
5. Sermons should be cognitive, affective, and behavioral; that is, they should relate scriptural truth, inspire people to care about that truth, and explain what they should do with that truth.
6. The teacher should note that Paul always began with the cross, then taught theology that was derived from the cross, and then taught application steps that were derived from that theology, and seek to emulate Paul in this regard as much as possible, so that people are given the transforming Word of God they need for renewal of their minds, not just application oriented teachings which leave them trying to change in their own power.
7. The teacher should take care to consistently show how the biblical text reveals major themes throughout the books of the Bible, allowing people to see the Bible's integrity and to understand what God is stressing in his revelation.
8. The teacher should teach through whole books of the Bible at least some of the time, allowing people to see God's revelation as it was revealed, and to see more clearly what God was revealing.
9. While recognizing that it is the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word that transforms people, the teacher should do everything possible to make the teaching interesting and – when helpful – fun, humorous, challenging, eye-opening, inspiring, convicting, or encouraging.

I have worked hard over the past decade to develop my skills in homiletics. I cannot claim every sermon is a masterpiece, but I have seen consistently affirming responses from listeners. I honed my natural abilities when I was teaching college economics, especially at a community college where I had to make economics interesting and relevant to a wide range of intellects. As a teacher of the Bible, I consider the wide range of spirituality in my listeners as well. I have effectively taught children, middle school students, high school students, young adults, and more mature adults; in one-on-one situations, small groups, large groups, and congregations; using Socratic dialogue, lecture, preaching, learning activities, group discussions, and devotions; whether they be non-believers, young believers, or mature believers.