



1. Developing a gospel shaped sermon

Introduction.

Thanks

The context for this material on preaching to the heart.

A 5-fold model for preaching. Preach ...

- The text
- Christ
- The gospel
- To the heart
- To the culture

Where we're headed.

- Developing a gospel shaped sermon
- Developing a heart oriented sermon
- Developing a culturally contextualised sermon

The purpose of preaching: transformation!

Bible

- 1 Thess 4.3: For this is the will of God, your sanctification
- Rom 8.28-29: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.
- 2 Cor 3.18: And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.
- 1 Tim 1.3-7: I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith. But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions.
- 2 Tim 3.16-17: All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
- Col 1.28-29: It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Role of the Holy Spirit

- Intermittent appeal to the sovereignty of God?
 - God as the cause of causes, and so not one cause among others.
 - And therefore, God as cause of causes is not a zero sum game with other causes - like your preaching!
- Paul takes responsibility for outputs not just inputs
- In other words, an expository sermon needs to be more than merely expository.

Phil 2.12-13: Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Crucial theological task - relate justification to sanctification.

Different ways to do that

- "Teach the Bible" as necessary but not sufficient for the telos of a sermon
- All justification
- All sanctification
- Justification leads to sanctification! Never
- Sanctification leads to justification - yes, but how?
- The dreadful dilemma!
- Identity?
- Gratitude?



How we normally do it.

- They won't work!
 - In what sense? Don't escape a mere appeal to the will
 - Notice that whatever theory you adopt or approach you take, you assume something about what human beings are and how therefore they change! Coming next!
- An exercise - your last sermon!
 - Was there a 'transformation telos'?
 - If so, what was it?
 - To what was the appeal made?

The subtexts of preaching!

- 'We're the good people'
- 'I'm one of the good people'
- A conference I know ...

Summary: What is a gospel shaped sermon?

- A exercise of Christian ministry
- That aims at transformation into the likeness of Christ
- And which has as its basis of change the gospel of grace
- By being oriented toward the heart

THEOLOGICAL CHALLENGE: PROPERLY RELATING JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

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