

APPLICATION:
EXTENDING EXPLANATION INTO
THE REALM OF THE PRACTICAL

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WHAT IS 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 the preacher, applies to the hearers. - Robinson, Biblical Preaching

Expository preaching is that mode of Christian preaching that takes as its central purpose the presentation and application of the text of the Bible. All other issues and concerns are subordinated to the central task of presenting the biblical text. As the Word of God, the text of Scripture has the right to establish both the substance and the structure of a sermon. Genuine exposition takes place when the preacher sets forth the meaning and the message of the biblical text and makes clear how the Word of God establishes the identity and worldview of the church as the people of God. - Mohler, He Is Not Silent

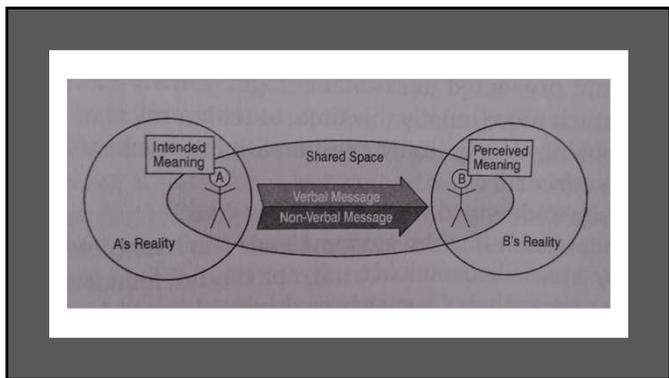
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WHAT IS EXPOSITORY PREACHING?

The process of laying open the biblical text in such a way that the Holy Spirit's intended meaning and accompanying power are brought to bear on the lives of contemporary listeners. - Vines and Shaddix, Power in the Pulpit

The goal of our preaching should be engaging exposition. The preacher of the Word should not settle for being a commentator or a communicator. His passion must be to preach the Word in such a way that he accurately teaches the meaning of the text and leads his audience to discover its implications for their life situations so that they respond in obedience and become more like Christ as a result. - York and Decker, Preaching with Bold Assurance

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INITIAL ISSUES
TO CONSIDER...

What do we actually believe about the text?

If I make application, don't I frustrate the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the listener?

Is application really that important to effective preaching?

Is application a necessary precursor to transformation?

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WHAT IS APPLICATION?

"...the process whereby the expositor takes a biblical truth of the text and applies it to the lives of the audience, proclaiming why it is relevant for their lives, and passionately encouraging them to make necessary changes in their lives in a manner congruent with the original intent of the author."

– Blue, Application in the Expository Sermon

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**5 FACETS OF
TEXT-DRIVEN APPLICATION...**

- Grounded in biblical truth.
- Based on the author's intended meaning.
- Demonstrates the relevant and practical nature of biblical truth.
- Includes practical illustrations, examples, or suggestions.
- Persuades and exhorts listeners to respond in obedient faith.

- Akin, Text-Driven Preaching

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OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM...

On the one hand, topical and felt needs preaching gives significant attention to application, but it fails to expound the text and thus provide the necessary biblical and theological grounding for application.

On the other hand, some expositors of the Bible offer only a running commentary of the text, neglecting to show the relevance of the text for the eagerly listening audience who are desperate for a word from God that will (1) educate the mind, (2) motivate the heart, and (3) activate the will.

- Akin, Text-Driven Preaching

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**STRONG LANGUAGE FROM
HOWARD HENDRICKS...**

Application is the most neglected yet the most needed stage in the process. too much Bible study begins and ends in the wrong place: it begins with interpretation, and it also ends there...Observation plus interpretation without application equals abortion. That is, every time you observe and interpret but fail to apply, you perform an abortion on the Scriptures in terms of their purpose. The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity, it was written to transform your life.

- Hendricks, Living by the Book

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MORE ISSUES TO CONSIDER...

- Application must be specific enough to be useful while remaining general enough to be accessible.
- Application must be as strongly tied to the text of Scripture as is appropriate based on your specific context.
- Text-Driven Preaching requires explanation, illustration, and application for each main point of the sermon/text.

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EXPLAIN, ILLUSTRATE, APPLY...

People learn in three ways: auditory (explain), visual (illustrate), and kinesthetic (apply).
 People are composite beings who have a mind (explain), emotions (illustrate), and a will (apply).

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**WALKING A FINE LINE...
IS APPLICATION VEILED MANIPULATION?**

Manipulation...	Persuasion...
• Deceptive/Phony	• Honesty/Transparency
• Tunnel Vision	• Actual Interest
• Control/Conceal	• Openness/Freedom
• Cynicism/Distrust	• Trust/Faith/Belief
	- Larsen, The Anatomy of Preaching

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ACTUAL APPLICATION:
TEXTUAL AND GENRE SPECIFIC CONCERNS...

How do we apply texts that have one-to-one correlation such as an epistle with an imperative/s. How do we apply those without one-to-one correlations? Other texts? Narratives, psalms, law, parable, gospels, etc? (restate, explain, prove, apply)

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5 Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,
6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.
7 Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form,
8 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death-- even to death on a cross.
9 For this reason God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow-- of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth--
11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Phi 2:5-11)

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12 Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"?
13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;
14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is without foundation, and so is your faith.
15 In addition, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified about God that He raised up Christ-- whom He did not raise up if in fact the dead are not raised.
16 For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised.
17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.
18 Therefore those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.
19 If we have placed our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

(1Co 15:12-19)

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1 Before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom, I solemnly charge you:
 2 proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not; rebuke, correct, and encourage with great patience and teaching.
 3 For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will accumulate teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear something new.
 4 They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.
 5 But as for you, keep a clear head about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

(2Ti 4:1-5)

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OTHER TYPES OF TEXTS...

- 2 Samuel 12:1-15 (Nathan confronts David)
- Psalm 15 (Abiding Character)
- Leviticus 1 (Burnt Offerings)
- Isaiah 6 (Here I Am)
- Proverbs 1:1-7 (Knowing Wisdom)
- Revelation 2-3 (7 Churches)

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DANGERS...

If we choose not to do application or fail to do it well, we run the risk of reducing understanding in the listener.
 If we fail at application, we may inadvertently become unintentional heretics.

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