

ABLE TO TEACH

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU KNOW IN LIFE WAS IMPARTED TO YOU BY A TEACHER.

Titus 1:9: [A leader] must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Throughout Christian history, the qualifications we're discussing this semester have been used specifically in the context of pastoral leadership. But being able to teach is a requirement of all Christians worthy of honor and respect. Being able to teach is not limited to public speaking abilities, being able to turn a phrase, or having the gift of gab. Paul is much more concerned about _____ is taught, rather than _____ it is taught. Some of the best lessons are not taught in classrooms; they're taught at dinner tables, over the phone, in board rooms, on the job.

James 3.1: Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

1 Timothy 5.17: Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

THE PURPOSE OF TEACHING:

A. WE TEACH TO IMPART _____.

Paul speaks specifically of our ability to teach the basic tenets of our faith.

Matthew 28.18: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and _____ them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Part of the Great Commission is to teach. But you cannot teach what you do not know. A good teacher must first be a good _____.

Only 5% of Americans are "Bible Centered," meaning they interact with the Bible frequently, it transforms their relationships, and shapes their choices.

B. WE TEACH TO PASS ON _____.

The best teachers are not the ones that are the most intelligent. The best teachers are those who exemplify honor, respect, and integrity. The old adage is true: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you _____.

Maya Angelou: I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

As Christians, we must continually teach values to the next generation. Values of integrity, honesty, freedom, love, self-denial, generosity, and kindness.

Christianity is always one generation away from _____.

Romans 10.14: But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

C. WE TEACH TO CORRECT _____.

A heresy is a teaching or idea that runs contrary to orthodoxy. In the days of the New Testament, heresy was rampant. Paul warns the young churches to teach the true, orthodox faith.

1 Timothy 4.1-2: Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.

What was true about heretics in the days of the New Testament is true of heretics now: They are persuasive, they can draw a crowd, and what they say might not sound too outlandish.

1 Peter 3.15: In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and _____.

MODERN HERESIES WE SHOULD CORRECT

1. THE HERESY OF _____ - _____ // "LIVE YOUR TRUTH."

Modernism believed that we should move away from allowing religious perspectives to ground our knowledge and understanding of the world. These thinkers wanted to wipe clean our religious understanding and instead start from a blank slate to explain reality. They believed that complete objectivity was possible.

Post-Modernism rejects these ideas. It says that there is no such thing as _____ truth.

What was once confined to the halls of philosophy departments has now made its way into our everyday lives. Sayings like, "Speak your truth" and "That might be true for you, but it's not true for me" are common sayings.

On face-value, Post-Modernism is self-defeating. The claim "There is no such thing as objective truth" must be objective truth in order to be true.

As Christians, we know that there is objective truth, and His name is Jesus Christ.

John 18.37: "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

2. THE HERESY OF _____/PLURALISM// “YOU DO YOU.”

This heresy arises out of many of the assumptions of post-modernity. Universalism essentially says that everyone goes to heaven, so long as they are living “their truth.” It doesn’t matter whether you believe in Jesus, Mohammad, Buddha, L. Ron Hubbard, Clifford the Big Red Dog, or nothing at all, you will still go to heaven, whatever that may be.

Pluralism is universalism’s cousin. It says that because we’re all going to the same place in the end, we should honor and respect everyone’s truth. We should not push our beliefs or evangelize.

John 14.6: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

3. THE HERESY OF THE _____ GOSPEL// “NAME IT AND CLAIM IT.”

Kate Bowler: Put simply, the prosperity gospel is the belief that God grants health and wealth to those with the right kind of faith.

John 16.33: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The purpose of believing in Jesus is not to make your life _____. It’s not so that you will have all the creature comforts of this world. It’s not so you can be filled with happiness all the days of your life. The purpose of believing in Jesus is to give glory to God, deny yourself, preach the Gospel, acknowledge the truths of this world, and one day live eternally with Him.

If good things happen to good people, what if something bad happens?

Bad things happen to good people. Good things happen to bad people. We live in a broken world. Being a good Christian man does not exempt you from pain, heartache, disease, and brokenness.

4. THE HERESY OF MORALISTIC THERAPEUTIC _____// “BE GOOD. FEEL GOOD. GOD EXISTS.”

Many of the previous heresies combine to form this one. It runs rampant in churches.

The assumptions of MTD:

1. A creator God _____
2. God wants people to be good and moral
3. The central goal of life is to be _____
4. God does not need to be involved in our daily lives until a problem arises
5. Good people go to heaven when they die

This heresy views God as “something like a combination Divine Butler and Cosmic Therapist: he’s always on call, takes care of any problems that arise, professionally helps his people to feel better about themselves, and does not become too personally involved in the process.”

These heresies will arise in culture, in your family, in your workplace. The question is: Will you be bold enough to combat them?

When we teach the Gospel, when we teach the truths of the Bible, we don't just combat heresies, impart information, or pass on values: we acknowledge that our faith is not just about us. It's about our family, our children, those who do not know Jesus. Being able to teach shows that you take your faith seriously.

Mission Trip to Honduras: Nov. 11-14.

For details, go to: <https://www.thewoodlandsmethodist.org/event/1558> or go to www.thewoodlandsmethodist.org, then to ministries, then to missions. Scroll down and click on Find a Trip.

Gathering of Biblical Methodists in the Texas Annual Conference:

Find out more about the future of the Methodist Church (including the upcoming separation), the new Global Methodist Church and be inspired by speakers like Keith Boyette, Carolyn Moore, Kenneth Levingston, Bishop Hayes and Rob Renfroe. Saturday, October 23, from 10-3, Kingwood UMC. Registration is required. Go to www.texwca.org/events

The Woodlands United Methodist Church
www.thewoodlandsmethodist.org