



# SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

John Goetsch | Wednesday, June 15, 2016

**Title:** Delivering a Sermon

**Introduction:** \_\_\_\_\_

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The delivery of the sermon is the most dynamic moment of the preaching experience. In that moment, all sermon preparation is brought to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. If the sermon is delivered effectively, the preacher, with grateful joy, forgets the hours of toil in preparation. But if the sermon fails, all the labor and study will seem like a heavy and useless \_\_\_\_\_.

The Gospel is a \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel. Thus, a sermon is not a sermon until it is \_\_\_\_\_. A minister is not a preacher until the message is communicated to others.

In spite of its importance, delivery is often \_\_\_\_\_ by preachers. They spend little time trying to \_\_\_\_\_ this area. If you are convinced of the centrality of preaching, you will always be looking to improve your delivery in preaching.

## 1. The Preacher's Personality

A. The "first law" of preaching is be \_\_\_\_\_

B. The preacher's emotions

- 1 Delivery does not start with the voice or body, but with the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of the preacher.
- 2 Your level of spirituality will be seen in your eyes, your face, your voice, your gestures, your posture, and your attitude toward the audience.
- 3 If there is a \_\_\_\_\_ between emotion and statement, emotion will be the most powerful and the most evident.

- 4 You cannot hide fear, anger, bitterness, joy, etc.
- 5 A preacher will be most effective in delivery when speaking from a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ purpose and conviction.
- 6 The preacher must work at maintaining his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a Poise is disturbed by \_\_\_\_\_. The size of the crowd, the attitude of the crowd, the content of the sermon, etc.
  - b Lack of poise is easily \_\_\_\_\_ by the audience. Flushed face, unsteady hands or knees, rapid or shallow breathing, a dry mouth, strained pitch, etc. Extreme fear can result in forgetfulness or absolute inability to speak.
- 7 Don't look for fear to be totally \_\_\_\_\_. Tension makes for readiness and zest in delivery.
- 8 Ways to improve poise:
  - a Thorough preparation
  - b Concern for your audience
  - c Reliance upon God
  - d A good attitude toward the situation
  - e Physical relaxation, especially the throat area

## 2. The Tools of the Trade

### A. The preacher's voice

- 1 Proper \_\_\_\_\_
  - a The preacher's most important tool is his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b Taking care of your voice is part of the obligation you accept when you answer the call to preach.
  - c Good speaking voices are \_\_\_\_\_. You can train yourself to speak well.
- 2 The production of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a Respiration
    - 1) Respiration is the act of \_\_\_\_\_. Steadiness of vocalization, projection, rate, pitch, and poise all depend in part on proper breathing.

- 2) Breathing for preaching should be diaphragmatic or abdominal.
- 3) Air must be taken in quickly and expelled slowly.
- 4) Proper posture will aid in maintaining proper breathing.

b Phonation

- 1) Phonation involves pitch, range, and inflection.
- 2) Improper use of phonation will cause you to \_\_\_\_\_ your voice.
- 3) Your normal speaking relaxed voice is your normal pitch. You can vary that pitch or range or inflection for emphasis, but not as a norm.
- 4) The change of pitch will help with expressiveness and interpretation.

c Resonation

- 1) Resonation has to do with the \_\_\_\_\_ of your voice.
- 2) A nasal or harsh sound, or a breathy sound, can be distracting to the audience.

d Articulation

- 1) Sounds are shaped into words by the tongue, lips, and teeth.
- 2) Clearness of speech is important to communication and essential in preaching.
- 3) Articulation has as much to do with being understood as it does with volume or loudness.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ - failure to open your mouth, or lack of flexibility in your facial area, will add up to a failure in articulation.

e Rate

- 1) Rate will need to \_\_\_\_\_ with the size of the audience, the acoustics of the building, and the nature of the sermon.

- 2) Generally, the larger the crowd and the more difficult the acoustics, the \_\_\_\_\_ the rate must be.
  - 3) Often the sermon material will determine the rate.
  - 4) A good rule of thumb is this: “Proper rate is varied and rapid enough to show vitality, yet slow enough to assure distinct articulation.
  - 5) The “dramatic \_\_\_\_\_” is a good tool for emphasis.
- f Projection
- 1) Projection affords a strong, round tone from the diaphragm—not from the throat.
  - 2) By \_\_\_\_\_, the preacher can speak with correct volume and force without changing the basic quality of the sound or damaging his voice.
- g Variety
- 1) We must avoid monotone or a \_\_\_\_\_ of speech.
  - 2) Our goal is a \_\_\_\_\_ delivery.

## B. The preacher’s body

- 1 Preaching involves more than your \_\_\_\_\_
  - a If a perfect preacher existed, no one would know it, because the perfect preacher is one whose delivery is \_\_\_\_\_ in communication.
  - b Incorrect use of the body will call \_\_\_\_\_ to itself rather than the message.
  - c The preacher cannot afford to preach two sermons (one with his voice and the other with his body).
  - d The best speaker is one who speaks \_\_\_\_\_ the body and thus by using his total personality communicates the message.
  - e Don’t be chained to certain \_\_\_\_\_. The body action should be motivated by the message.

2 Appearance

- a First \_\_\_\_\_ are important. You are preaching before you ever \_\_\_\_\_.
- b Your dress should always be \_\_\_\_\_.
- c Three rules: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Posture

- a Your posture begins with how you \_\_\_\_\_ on the platform.
- b Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_. You should show interest in everything taking place in the service.
- c Once in the pulpit, your weight should be distributed evenly on your feet. Avoid swaying back and forth or rocking on your toes.
- d Don't slouch, and work on keeping your hands out of your \_\_\_\_\_.

4 Eye contact

- a The eye is the window into the \_\_\_\_\_. You must at least give the impression that you are looking at your listeners.
- b Don't look at \_\_\_\_\_ person too long. Keep your eyes moving across the congregation.
- c Avoid looking at the floor, the ceiling, out the window, etc.
- d Good eye contact gives the audience the assurance of your desire to \_\_\_\_\_.

5 Gestures

- a Gestures involve the whole body—the arms and hands, but also the head, the shoulders, and the eyes.
- b Gestures should be motivated from \_\_\_\_\_.
- c Gestures should be coordinated with the rest of the body and flow out of the message.
- d Gestures should be \_\_\_\_\_ to the occasion, the size of the crowd, and the nature of the sermon.

- e Gestures should be \_\_\_\_\_. Don't get into a rut.
- f There are four conventional gestures:
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ finger: location and mild emphasis.
  - 2) A clenched \_\_\_\_\_: dramatic and strong emphasis.
  - 3) The palms \_\_\_\_\_: affirmative and pleading emotion.
  - 4) The palms \_\_\_\_\_: disapproval, rejection, or contempt.
- g There are three planes of gestures:
- 1) The \_\_\_\_\_ plane: From the shoulder up—the most powerful and reverent thought.
  - 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ plane: From the shoulders to the waist—most often used and where all emotions can be expressed adequately.
  - 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ plane: From the waist down—negative thoughts.
- h General body movement
- 1) Too much body movement is \_\_\_\_\_. Changes in position should be natural.
  - 2) A change in position can be especially effective when making a \_\_\_\_\_ in the sermon.
  - 3) Mannerisms should be \_\_\_\_\_ such as tugging at your clothing, hands in pockets, hands behind you, leaning on the pulpit, etc. Any of these can be used for emphasis.
  - 4) It doesn't hurt to videotape yourself preaching to see what you look like to the audience.

## Conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

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Delivery is something that is hard to \_\_\_\_\_ because it has to come from within, being motivated by your message. If there is no voice inflection, body movement, raised volume, etc., the message probably doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ much to you. But when there is a "fire" burning in your bones that has to get out, it will be evident in your delivery.

Don't try to \_\_\_\_\_ someone else, but watch others as they preach. What is effective in their delivery that you would feel comfortable doing? As a future preacher, don't just listen to preachers—\_\_\_\_\_ them.

Be yourself, but be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to be more effective in preaching.

Delivery is that which draws the audience into the Truth that you are preaching. It is vital that we develop this area. Charles Finney was once asked by a New York newspaper if they could print his sermons. He replied, "Sure you can print the sermon, but you can't print the fire!"



Lancaster Baptist Church • 4020 E. Lancaster Blvd. • Lancaster, CA 93535  
661.946.4663 • [lancasterbaptist.org](http://lancasterbaptist.org) • Paul Chappell, Pastor