

Tuesday's Touch ...#25

...from Pastor Ed ...July 14, 2009

Receiving Truth... Part 4 Teaching & Preaching

...and the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2Ti 2:2

Preach the word; be steadfast in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 2Ti 4:2

That the older women [may be] teachers of good things, that they teach the younger women... Tit 2:3-4

These things command and teach. 1Ti 4:11

As we have considered the absolute necessity of being taught by the Holy Spirit, it is not uncommon to hear some insist, therefore, that the Spirit filled Christian does not need to be under the ministry of other preachers and teachers. Such an attitude demonstrates a total disregard for the clear teaching of the New Testament. God has ordained and given various ministries of the word to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Eph 4:11-12). The primacy of preaching in the churches has been maintained by the saints throughout the centuries. Those who love Christ love Christ-filled preaching and teaching.

There are a number of reasons for this necessity:

- 1. God has ordained it- Christ has established it thus in his church.*
- 2. Christ's Body is intended, by definition, to be an interdependent faith community. Each member equally needs the gifted ministries of the others in the body (1 Cor 14:12-27).*
- 3. We still live in earthen vessels- the flesh- which is subject to many different 'voices.' These voices come from the flesh, itself, from the world, and from the wicked one. The dynamic of the Spirit bearing witness with our spirit, the Word of God, and what is being taught or preached, provides a strong basis for discerning the voice of truth. While we are not infallible in this, the child of God must learn to discern the voice of the Shepherd. "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me" (John 10:27)*

4. *We are very foolish not to avail ourselves of the work of others who, from years of labor, have mined truth from the Word. If I built a new house and wanted electricity, it would be absurd to do experiments to understand Ohms Law on my own, then figure out how to make a power plant and run lines to my house- a task that would probable take more than a lifetime. By taking advantage of the work of others over the centuries, I can have electricity in my house in a few days at most.*

As we seek to glean from the ministries of preaching and teaching, therefore, we must ask ourselves:

1. *Are they Christ-centric and clearly presenting a biblical gospel?*
2. *Do they clearly manifest a deep respect for the inspiration and authority of the Bible?*
3. *Are they under the authority of, and show respect for the local church? The New Testament knows no other manifestation of the 'church universal' then the local assembly under biblical leadership.*
4. *Does the Holy Spirit in you bear witness with the teaching. I did not say, "is your intellect stimulated?" or "are you entertained?" but does the Spirit make a direct connection between your spirit, the Inspired Word, and what is being taught?*

No matter how much we respect a preacher or teacher, our 'golden rule' must always be: Consider what is said and the Lord give you understanding (2 Tim 2:7).

Christ Jesus,

Lord and Head of your Church,

Thank you for gifting your church with those called to preach and teach. Forgive us when we have not esteemed them highly in love for their work's sake. Grant us discernment of truth by your Spirit, and deliver us from false prophets.

Ever growing in the knowledge of you,

Amen

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