



## The Principle Goal of Preaching must be: **TO FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD**

Many of the notes in this section are based on Kevin Conners' and Frank Damazio's notes given at various Northwest Ministers Conferences, along with many of my own additions to their notes.

Preaching is more than just form and style. Many elements are involved if the flock is to be properly ministered to. Therefore, within the context of Homiletics we need to consider some of the elements of preaching from not just the technical aspect but the pastoral dimension as well.

### I. The Importance of Maintaining Balance.

Listen to a quote from Pastor Dick Iverson's book "Maintaining Balance":

#### **Stick to Clear Scriptures**

"If the churches of today are going to maintain balance, the leaders of those churches must maintain balance. One of the ways that a leader maintains doctrinal balance is in his approach to the Word of God.

When a leader goes to the Word of God for doctrinal understanding, he must focus on the plain, clear verses. Leaders must avoid running to some obscure verses that theologians have been arguing over for centuries because of their vagueness. Do not focus your vision, for example, on some vague prophetic scripture in an allegoric setting with symbols and signs, and try to establish a major doctrine or emphasis. You are heading for trouble.

All of the major teachings of the Bible necessary for the Christian walk are clearly stated. In fact, they are usually stated repeatedly. The principle of "two or three witnesses" applies here (2 Corinthians 13:1, Deuteronomy 19:15). If a teaching is vital to a church you should be able to find it stated clearly several places in the Bible.

I remember one instance where my wife and I were visiting a church. I was to speak that morning. But we didn't happen to be dressed the particular way that that church required. They had a doctrine based on one obscure verse, and they were willing to shut anyone out from fellowship that did not conform to that doctrine! We had to run all over town and find something that would satisfy their code before we could even minister to their congregation.

Any doctrine that is going to be used to prevent ministry or break fellowship should certainly be based on more than just one verse! Too much is at stake to conduct a church in this manner. We have too much to lose when we walk on such thin "Theological Ice."

The first principle to remember is that if a teaching is worth devoting your life to, and especially worth affecting the Christian community at large, then it is going to be stated repeatedly and clearly in the Bible!

A church reduces its chances of going off on a tangent if it majors on what the Bible majors on and it minors on what the Bible minors on. We emphasize what God emphasizes! I am not suggesting that we are to ignore the minors, simply that we should

not put major emphasis on them."

Note for your reference many of the principles gained from his book:

- I. Why does Imbalance occur?
  1. The Nature of Sheep.
  2. Imbalanced Leadership
    - 1) Impure Motives
    - 2) Spirit of Fear
    - 3) Perverted Desires
    - 4) Weak Convictions
    - 5) Pride
    - 6) Covetousness
    - 7) Close-mindedness
    - 8) Insecurity
    - 9) Impatience
    - 10) Frustrated spirit
    - 11) Prayerlessness
- II. Consequences of Imbalance:
  1. Loss of Confidence in Leadership
  2. Loss of the spirit of faith
  3. Increased Stress
  4. Loss of Influence
  5. Embittered Feelings
  6. Immaturity
  7. Division in the Body
  8. Movement toward Deception
  9. Distorted Judgment
  10. Fortress Mentality
- III. How to Maintain Balance:
  1. Stick to Clear Scriptures
  2. Major on the Majors
  3. Teach the Sheep Alertness
  4. Watch and Pray
  5. Confer with other Pastors
  6. Study Carefully
  7. Let others try it first
  8. Try the spirits
  9. Promote Love and Charity
- IV. Warning signs of Imbalance:
  1. Watch out for the word "New" especially when associated with "Revelation"
  2. Watch out for anything that requires "Private Interpretation"
  3. Watch out for those who major on the minors
  4. Watch out for extremes, or truth out of balance
  5. Watch out for the promise of "Instant Maturity"
  6. Watch out not to judge a spiritual truth or a ministry on the basis of external signs that follow their ministry
  7. Watch out for practices that elevate emotional experiences above the principles of God's Word
  8. Watch out for spiritual teachings that justify carnal desires
  9. Watch out for teachings that promote health, wealth, success and happiness with no mention of cost, pain, persecution, and even personal loss
  10. Watch out for teachings that will not work in every culture as easily as

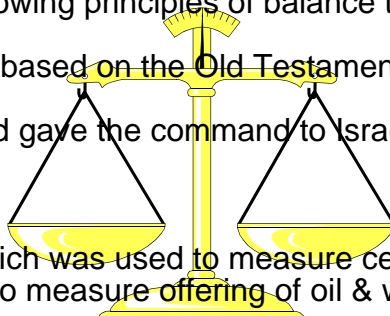
- they do in America
11. Watch out for doctrines that side step confession, repentance, restitution and forsaking sin, and that release you from personal responsibility for your deeds
  12. Watch out for doctrines that diminish the power of the cross and the work of repentance in the believer
  13. Watch out for doctrines that are not willing to be questioned and tested
  14. Watch out for doctrines that lead to spiritual pride or exclusivism
  15. Watch out for teaching that elevate or promote an individual above Christ
  16. Watch out when the vessel does not confirm the message by his lifestyle

Now, consider the following principles of balance taken from the Word of God:

A. Balance is a Principle based on the Old Testament Weights & Measures.

Lev.19:35-37 The Lord gave the command to Israel to have:

1. Just **Balances**.
2. Just **Weights**.
3. A Just **Ephah** - which was used to measure cereals (approx. 120 lbs.)
4. A Just **Hin** - used to measure offering of oil & wine (approx. 7 pints)



Proverbs 16:11 The Lord is serious about balance.

In these passages we see the principle of balance established.

Justice in balances, in weights, and in measurements is symbolic of the justice **Inherent** in the **Nature** of God and His desire for man to **Reflect** His nature.

On every major area of doctrine, if we look into the Scriptures we will note **Two** emphases, seemingly **Opposing** to each other.

As noted by the scales, below, one set of Scriptures emphasize one aspect of a doctrine and another set of Scriptures emphasize another aspect. Both sets together keep the proper **Balance**.

Preaching must maintain the proper balance, lest the people become susceptible to **Extremes** of doctrine and walk into doctrinal **Traps**.

### Keeping the Balance

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Humanity of Christ</li> <li>2. The Freewill of Man</li> <li>3. The Oneness of God</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Deity of Christ</li> <li>2. The Sovereignty of God</li> <li>3. The Threeness of God</li> </ol> |
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|------------------------------------|---|
| 4. Praise & Worship                | 4. Systematic Teaching                    |
| 5. Prosperity Message              | 5. Suffering Message                      |
| 6. Restoration of the House of God | 6. Restoration of the Individual Believer |

B. Warnings against **False** Balances.

Prov.11:1 A **False** balance is an abomination to God.

Prov.20:23 **Diverse** weights are an abomination to God.

Micah 6:11 "Shall I count pure those with **Wicked** balances, and with the bag of **Deceitful** weights?"

Just or Deceitful Weights:

1. **Standard** Weights. These were for inspection and were according to the Divine Standard, the Standard of the Sanctuary.
2. **Light** Weights. These were used for weighing in, to make legitimate profit for the purchasing agent.
3. **Heavy** Weights. These were used for weighing out, to make legitimate profit for the seller.
4. **Mixed** Weights. These are the Deceitful or Unjust weights, referred to in Scripture. These are weights either **Increased** or **Decreased** from the **Standard** of the Sanctuary, beyond **Legitimate** profit making allowances.

Application: God does not approve of ministries telling the people that a certain doctrine promises **More** than it actually does, or that it requires **Less** of them than it actually requires.

Egs. Prosperity, Deliverance, Healing, Holiness.

C. Evidences of False Balances.

The results of "False Balances" in a minister or church are evidenced in the following:

1. **Doctrinal Fixations**: Egs. The Bride, Water Baptism, Healing, Prosperity, Deliverance, Holiness, Salvation.
2. **Spiritual Stagnation**: Staying on one topic too long.
3. **Sectarian spirit**: Running down other ministries while you lift yourself up.
4. **Proud & Critical Attitudes**.
5. **Introspection** and over emphasis on **Psychology**.

6. **Discontent & Frustration.**
7. **Loss of Joy and a Free Spirit.**

D. Passages addressing a **Feeding** Balance.

1. Psalm 78:70-72

He feeds the flock with a balance of **Integrity & Skillfulness.**

- 1) **Integrity** - Wholeness, Uprightness, Honesty, Issues of Character, Heart Orientation, Encouraging Transparency and Purity.

This tends to be the **Pentecostal's** area of leaning.

- 2) **Skillfulness** - Use of Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Original Languages, History, Geography, Culture, Academic Knowledge.

This tends to be the **Evangelical's** area of leaning.

We need **Both Skill & Integrity.**

2. Psalm 23:1

A good shepherd ministers to the **Needs** of his sheep.

Want - In Hebrew = **Lack**

The shepherd's role is to feed a balanced diet such that his flock does not **Lack** in areas of life where they need food.

Ask, "Where are the **People**", not just "Where are **You** as a feeder in God."

Don't preach to satisfy your desires, your pet messages or preferences.  
Ezk.34:1-2; Jer.23:4

3. Jer.3:15

Pastor's after God's heart.

Giving a balance of **Knowledge & Understanding.**

- 1) **Knowledge** - Academic insights.
- 2) **Understanding** - Wisdom to live life successfully by.

4. John 21:15-16

A balance between **Nourishment & Relationship.**

- 1) Vs.15 Bosko - To provide **Food** or nourishment. To give a proper diet for health.
- 2) Vs.16 Poimaino - To **Relate** intimately with the sheep, to keep through

shepherding, the personal touch, counseling, visitation and recreation.

II. The Importance of **Priorities**. Acts 6:1-4

A. The priority of **Prayer** for the **Anointing**.

B. The priority of the **Word**.

1. Not to be **Table Servers**.

Table serving = Anything we do for the body that causes us to *excessively* **Leave** study and the ministry of the Word of God.

Egs.:

- 1) **Relationships** - Pastors will not have all the time they or others will want with them, to develop relationships.
  - 2) **Families** - While time must be spent here, when it comes to church services you and your family will need to learn to release you to serve, in a unique way, the whole church. Family can not anticipate the same attention at church that they will get when they go other places with you. A family must learn that they are going to have to share you with the body more than other families are called on to share their dad. Sometimes this even extends beyond the church service - (Phone calls at home, special services, counseling, visitation, traveling ministry, etc.).
  - 3) **Administration** - It is an important area but the pastor must learn to delegate it.
  - 4) **Self & Church Improvement Seminars** - How to build large churches, how to effectively counsel your people, how to build marriages, how to evangelize, etc.
  - 5) **Counseling** - The senior pastor must not allow himself to get bogged down here. He will have to do some, but he needs to be training leaders to handle the load as well.
2. To be a **Voice** not an **Echo**. John 1:23; Isa.40:3,6,9

1) A **Voice**

To hear from God, study it out and bring a powerful Word from God, with authority. Gal.1:12; Isa.50:4-5; Rev.2:17

2) An **Echo**

To receive messages to preach from lectures, tapes, videos and magazines, with very little added from work or walk with God.

It is the repeating of a sound, an imitating of the words or style of another.  
Acts 19:13-16

3. The work of **Research**.

2 Tim.2:15

**Diligent** - To be determined, eager or excited about. Prov.25:2

**Approved** - One tested or assayed like precious metals by fire.

**Worker** - One who labors with great intensity.

**Rightly Dividing** - Correctly interpreting the Word.

4. Recognizing the **Importance** of the Word.

We aren't called to be funny, have great wit, tell good stories or be sarcastic, although there is room for each of these. Our primary task is dealing with the Word. Isa.2:1-4; Ezra 7:10

5. The **Preacher**, The **Preaching**, That which is **Preached**.

1) The **Preacher** - Grk. Karux, a herald of divine truth. I Tim.2:7

2) The **Preaching** - Grk. Karusso, to herald, proclaim, publish. Rom.10:8

3) That which is **Preached** - Grk. Karugma, a proclamation, a message. Titus 1:3

6. God's **Attitude** about His Word.

1) Psalm 138:2 God **Magnifies** His Word greatly.

2) Rom.10:17 **Faith** is created by hearing the Word.

3) Mark 16:15-20 **Signs** follow the Word.

4) Eph.5:23-32 The Church is **Cleansed** by the Laver of the taught Word.

5) Eph.6:17 The **Spirit** uses the Word.

6) Heb.4:12 The Word is **Alive, Powerful, Active, Sharp**.

7) Jer.1:12 The Lord **Performs** His Word.

8) Isa.55:11 The Word **Accomplishes** things.

9) Mt.4:4 & Dt.8:2-3 Man **Lives** by the Word.

7. The Word is the **Hub** of the **Service**.

1) The **Rim** - The outer limits, the circumference, the outcome of the service.

2) The **Spokes** - As many as make a balanced wheel, and each spoke connects to the rim and hub.

Prayer, or Pre-Service Prayer  
Praise & Worship

Gifts of the Spirit  
Communion - The Lord's Table  
Choir, Special Songs  
Orchestral Music  
Tithes & Offerings & Announcements  
Testimonies

All are needed, but be careful to not allow one spoke to regularly dominate over or cancel the others.

- 3) The **Hub** - All the spokes are related to the Hub.

The Hub is the **Word of God**.

- 4) The **Spirit** in the Wheel - Ezk.1:15-20

If the Spirit is manifest in the service, all the spokes will connect harmoniously to the hub. There should be a common thread or theme throughout the service.

8. The **Eight - Fold** Ministry of the Word. 2 Tim.4:1-2a

- 1) For **Doctrine** - Teaching & Instruction. It implies also, the authority of the communication. 2 Tim.3:16
- 2) For **Reproof** - To admonish, to chastise, to bring conviction, to refute error. 2 Tim.3:16
- 3) For **Correction** - To straighten up again, to set right again, to amend what is wrong. 2 Tim.3:16
- 4) For **Instruction** - To educate, train, discipline. 2 Tim.3:16
- 5) For **Convincing** - To convince of fault or error or wrong thinking. 2 Tim.4:2
- 6) For **Rebuke** - To censure, admonish, show a fault, to command adjustment. 2 Tim.4:2
- 7) For **Exhortation** - To call near, to invite, to implore, to beseech. 2 Tim.4:2
- 8) For **Comfort** - To heal, to console. Rom.15:4

III. The Importance of solid **Research**.

A. Invest in good study **Tools**.

B. Find a **Private** place to study.

C. Schedule a consistent **Time** to study.

D. Cultivate correct **Attitudes** towards study.

1. The Attitude of **Hungering** for and **Desiring** the Word. Mt.5:6; I Pet.2:2
2. The Attitude of **Teachableness**. Ps.119:33



3. The Attitude of **Spirit Dependence**. Jn.14:26
4. The Attitude of **Humility**. Isa.66:1-2
5. The Attitude of **Personal Application**. Rom.7:9-10  
The Word really affected Paul's personality. Rom.7:24

IV. The Importance of Maintaining a Healthy **Diet**.

A. What is a Healthy Diet? Ecc.12:9-12

1. A **Balanced** Diet.
2. A **Consistent** Diet.
3. A **Growth** Emphasis Diet.

B. How do you develop a Healthy Diet?

1. Evaluate the **Growth** level and **Maturity** of the flock.
2. Evaluate the **Emphasis** in your teaching over several months and years.  
There should be both **Topical** & **Expositional** messages.
3. Determine the specific areas of **Weakness** in the flock.  
(Family, Prayer, Worship, Joy, Relationships, Maturity, Giving, Vision, etc.)
4. After the above, **Plan** properly to meet the needs.  
Get away and schedule out your entire year of teaching.

V. The Importance of **Feeding** the Flock of God.

A. Different ways of Feeding the Flock.

1. Teach a **Book** of the Bible **Chapter** by **Chapter** or by the various **Subjects** contained within that book.
2. Teach a **Chapter** of the Bible **Verse** by **Verse** in expository teaching.
3. A study of a specific **Individual** in Scripture, revealing principles and insights for daily living.
4. **Place** studies, such as Zion, the Wilderness, the Tabernacles, etc.
5. A **theme**, or **Subject** study to meet a particular **Need** in the body or nation.

B. Develop your **Skill** in communicating.

We'll discuss this more later.

The clothing of truth with the right words and actions so as to communicate the truth of your message is extremely important.

C. The Necessity of **Organizing** and **Presenting** Pastoral **Teaching Series**.

1. It will help the flock to learn a particular **Truth** through the aid of repetition, review and emphasis.
2. It will help the **Staff** ministries to feel the pulse of the church and to minister the **Same** emphasis, but with their approach and insight in their areas of responsibility.
3. It will help the Pastor systematically develop thoughts on a **Weekly** basis, which will in turn save him **Time**, instead of always searching for a colorful subject every Saturday to preach on Sunday.

D. Be a Careful **Student of Life**.

1. Current Affairs.
2. Societal Trends.
3. Adjustment of current humanistic philosophies.
4. Read the Newspaper or listen to the news.
5. Read Secular & Biblical books.
6. Discriminately watch a few movies & documentaries.
7. Listen to others.
8. Visit conferences.
9. Expand your vocabulary.

Most people use only 400 words in more than 80% of their everyday conversation.

There are over 450,000 words in the English Dictionary.

If we were to learn ten new words each day for one year, we could become among the most learned and well spoken individuals in the world.

E. Be willing to **Care** for and address **Sensitive** issues.

1. Divorce
2. Human Sexuality.
3. The Effects of Divorce, Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse in childhood, Rape, Incest,

Psychological Abuse.

4. The Inevitable sufferings of life.
5. Deliverance from past bruising of the enemy.
6. The effects of the fall.
7. Restoring the image of God.
8. Developing a biblical self image.