

Types of Sermons and Their Construction:

Expositors Collective

1. Topical Sermon

- a. A Topical Sermon ONLY takes the topic or subject from the Biblical text. The preacher, according to the preacher's knowledge and desire, invents the divisions, both points and sub-points.
- b. Topical Sermon outlines begin with a Biblical concept or reference but are completely based upon the slant of the preacher. Because of how they are constructed, the Bible is not necessary to construct a sermon
 - i. This is the most unrestrictive way to prepare a sermon, and is simultaneously the most dangerous way to prepare a sermon
 - ii. Anything can become a text by which this sermon is preached from news paper articles, to poems, to songs
 - iii. A vague Scriptural reference or "springboard" from a verse (whereby the preacher begins with a verse but never references it again) is usually what marks Topical Sermons
 - iv. Examples of Topical Outlines:
 1. "Redemption"
 - a. The meaning of redemption
 - b. The necessity of redemption
 - c. The method of redemption
 - d. The results of redemption
 2. "Evidences of God's Love"
 - a. As seen in the Bible
 - b. As seen in nature
 - c. As seen in providence
- c. Pros: cover a specific topic thoroughly, systematic theology, develop a plan or program for discipleship, a way to convey general Biblical information, a way to introduce a series of sermons, overall the easiest approach to teaching
- d. Cons: Scripture is prone to be colored in by the preacher, lends itself to "soap box" issues, is based solely upon the preacher's knowledge, can be too general in scope, is difficult to balance, does not actually give people the meaning of Scripture, people will need the preacher in order to "understand the Bible"

2. Textual Sermon

- a. Textual Sermon outlines begin with a Biblical text providing the overall subject or concept, and moves into allowing the text to also provide the main points of the sermon. All of the sub-points, however, are left up to the preacher to determine as the preacher sees fit.
 - i. This is much more restrictive than Topical Sermons and so removes much more of the inherent danger, and yet still leaves a lot of unrestricted access for the preacher's "liberty"
 - ii. The actual Scriptures are necessary for Sermon construction
 - iii. The main points of the sermon are clearly stated or inferred by the passage of Scripture, however the sub-points are invented by the preacher and are up to the preacher's discretion.
- b. Examples of Textual Sermon Outlines:
 - i. "The Minister As An Example" 1 Timothy 4:12 "...Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity"
 1. An example in word
 2. An example in conduct
 3. An example in love
 4. An example in spirit
 5. An example in faith
 6. An example in purity
 - ii. "God Has A Plan For You" John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He have His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
 1. The origin of the plan "For God"
 2. The motivation of the plan "so loved"
 3. The population the plan is for "the world"
 4. The demonstration of the plan "that He gave His only Son"
 5. The invitation of the plan "that whoever"
 6. The condition of the plan "believes in Him"
 7. The ramifications of the plan "not perish, have everlasting life"
- c. Pros: more Biblical than a topical sermon, easier to remember, can meet the needs of the people, the people are being given a better understanding of the Scriptural text
- d. Cons: same as the Topical Sermon with lesser negative impact, greatest of which would be that the people do not actually learn the meaning of Scripture, and it causes the people to need the preacher in order to "understand the Bible"

3. Expository Sermon

- a. An Expository Sermon will focus primarily on the text in its context and demands a longer portion of Scripture usually a paragraph or chapter
 - i. It is to ascertain what God has said in His word and giving that to the people; it takes the subject, ALL of the main points AND ALL of the sub-points from the Biblical text. No ideas can be introduced except that which the Scripture dictates. Exposition of the passage of Scripture, and that only.
 - ii. The Scriptures are vital to this sermon, and the Scriptures are central to the explanation and understanding of the sermon
 1. Other passages are only used to support what is clearly taught and intended by the Biblical Text
 2. Inductive; Exegetical; Critical Observation
- b. Examples of Expository Sermon Outlines:
 - i. “Temptation” James 1:12-15
 1. The origin of temptation
 - a. Not from God (vv13)
 - b. From inward desires (vv14)
 2. The results of yielding to temptation (vv15)
 - a. First sin
 - b. Then death
 3. The reward for enduring temptation (vv12)
 - a. Blessedness
 - b. A crown of life
 - ii. “What Makes A Mature Christian?” Philippians 2:19-24
 1. Excellence (vv19-21)
 - a. Companionship to Paul “likeminded”
 - b. Concern for Christians “care for your state”
 - c. Contrast to others “all seek their own”
 2. Experience (vv22)
 - a. Evident to others “know his character”
 - b. Enjoyed by Paul “served with me”
 3. Expansion (vv23-24)
 - a. Ready to be sent “hope to send him”
 - b. Representing Paul “as I see how it goes with me”
- c. Pros: the truly Biblical way to handle the Scriptures, people will leave knowing God spoke to them, demonstrates the belief of the preacher that every word of Scripture is inspired, teaches people the actual Scriptures, people are not trained to be dependent upon the preacher, gives you exactly what the Bible actually says
- d. Cons: by far the most difficult way to prepare a sermon, requires much time and effort