

Peninsula Grace Church
Preaching Cohort
Session #1: The Heart of a Preacher

1. Preaching God's Word

A. What is the purpose of God's Word?

I. *More than a feeling, fact or following*

- To glorify God and renew our life in His glorious ways (Psalm 19)
- To point us to Jesus (the only way we can glorify God) (John 5.39)
- God's Word is His self-revelation to humanity, so we can love, know & glorify Him through Jesus (John 17.3)

II. *The power of God's Word*

- To create (Genesis 1; John 1.1-4)
- To judge (John 12.48)
- To bring about God's purposes (Isaiah 55.11)
- To discern our hearts (living and active!) (Hebrews 4.12)

B. What is the purpose of preaching?

I. *Colossians 1.28*

- To proclaim Jesus...
- To warn and teach everyone with all wisdom...
- ... ultimately, to present everyone mature in Christ
- *"Christian preaching has as its purpose nothing less than the complete conformity of every child of God to the perfect image of Christ the Son"* – Dennis E. Johnson

II. *So, faithful preaching is publically proclaiming God's powerful Word to others*

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1.5) and the wisdom of Christ (Colossians 2.3), the Word of God calls people to Christ and new life in Him
- Therefore, all preaching must be the preaching of God's Word
 - o Because God's Word alone is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1.16)
 - o *"The choice of preaching as a medium is not incidental. This puts us on the receiving end of things; not only does justification come through faith alone, but faith itself also comes through hearing"* – Michael Horton

Breakout Questions #1:

- *Who are 1-3 preachers/teachers who have had a great impact on your life?*
 - o *What practices, habits or character qualified made them impactful?*
- *Share your own preaching/teaching background & experiences*
- *What false motives might we have in our preaching?*
- *What hurdles do you anticipate in your preaching journey?*
 - o *How might God use these "hurdles" as opportunities for sanctification?*

2. Our Heart as a Preacher

A. A loving desire for whole-body maturation (Ephesians 4.11-16)

What do you see in this passage regarding the heart of a preacher?

B. A longing to see the broken made whole in Jesus (Colossians 1.24-28)

What do you see in this passage regarding the heart of a preacher?

C. A genuine need to experience mutual encouragement (Romans 1.11-12)

What do you see in this passage regarding the heart of a preacher?

D. A love for the Chief Shepherd and our fellow sheep (1 Peter 5.1-4)

- I. *If we aren't with our fellow sheep, we can't love them in our preaching*
 - They do not care how much we know until they know how much we are
- II. *We cannot lead someone farther than we are ourselves*
 - Do I love Jesus? Do I love God's Word? (Psalm 119)
- III. *We must be the message we preach* (1 Corinthians 2.4)
 - Am I transparent? Humble? The chief repent-er?

Francis Chan pre-sermon reflection questions:

1. *Am I worried about what people think of my message or what God thinks?* (Teach with fear)
2. *Do I genuinely love these people?* (Teach with love)
3. *Am I accurately presenting this passage?* (Teach with accuracy)
4. *Am I depending on the Holy Spirit's power or my own cleverness?* (Teach with power)
5. *Have I applied this message to my own life?* (Teach with integrity)
6. *Will this message draw attention to me or to God?* (Teach with humility)
7. *Do the people really need this message?* (Teach with urgency)

Breakout Questions #2:

- Discuss Tim Keller's "Preaching" intro & prologue (pages 1-23)
- *What is one thing that grabbed your attention?*

- *What is one thing helpful for your own preaching journey?*

- *What is one thing you might say differently?*