

Preaching at FreeWay Bible Chapel Qualifications and Standards

The ministry of preaching is both a high calling and a sacred responsibility. A preacher has a singularly important role in teaching, explaining, exhorting, and encouraging the Lord's people. The great American statesman Aaron Burr once told a chaplain, "Sir, you gentlemen of the black cloth have greater opportunities of influencing the minds of men than the gentlemen of any other profession."

In this respect, the preacher is to be regarded as an instrument of God to convey God's truth. He is quite literally a spokesman for God Himself.

For these reasons, FreeWay Bible Chapel has established the following four standards for those who participate in the ministry of preaching:

1. Consistency in participating in the meetings of the church and in service to the body
Preaching is an integral part of the overall shepherding ministry of the church and as such the preacher must know "the flock" in order to adequately and properly address the believers' needs. This requires active participation and involvement in the various aspects of church life.

2. A heart inclined to declaring the worthiness of God and His Son's love
Jesus said that the Father seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Worship is the natural outflowing of a heart centered on God. Those who are called by God to preach His word will naturally have consistency in proclaiming His love, grace, mercy, and greatness at the Lord's Supper.

3. Demonstrated ability to interpret the Scriptures and to convey their meaning to the minds and hearts of the congregation.
The Bible describes Apollos as an "eloquent man" (Acts 18:24) but eloquence by itself (as shown by Apollos' need for further instruction, vv. 25-26) is insufficient for scripturally-faithful preaching. In the same fashion, Timothy was exhorted by Paul "*to give attendance to reading and doctrine*" in order that he might become an able preacher (1 Tim 4:6). The preacher of God's word must not only be a student of the Bible but also skilled in presenting its truths in a clear and understandable way.

4. A lifestyle commensurate with the call to be God's messenger
Effective Biblical preaching has properly been taught to have three principal components:

1. the "logos" or the content of the message
2. the "pathos" or the delivery of the message
3. the "ethos" or character of the messenger

The latter is of no lesser importance than the former two. A preacher is God's spokesman and as such is required to live a life consistent with his calling. The preacher should have, as the apostle Paul declared, "*a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men*" (Acts 24:16).

His motivation should be the glory of God and his concern should be for the blessing of others. The apostle Paul declared, *As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.* 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

