

Teaching on Teaching

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The gift of teaching:

1 Corinthians 12:27-28:

Now you are the body of Christ,
and members
individually. And God has
appointed these in the church:
first apostles, second prophets,
third teachers, after that miracles,
then gifts of
healings, helps, administrations,
varieties of tongues.

The gift of teaching:

Romans 12:6-8

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

The gift of teaching:

Ephesians 4:11-12

And He Himself gave
some to be apostles, some
prophets, some evangelists, and
some pastors and teachers, for
the equipping of the saints for the
work of ministry, for the edifying
of the body of Christ

What is teaching in a biblical context?

Teaching is the message explained, clarified and applied with exhortation, primarily for the purpose of building faith, Christian conviction and character.

Teaching is the Spirit given ability to teach God's word with clarity, applying it with accuracy so that people grow in Christian maturity.

Transformation is the goal, not merely transfer of information.

The responsibility of teaching:

2 Timothy 2:15 says:

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

James 3:1 warns:

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

How should we teach?:

- Simplicity is often the key.
- We shouldn't compromise the word of God by trying to please our hearers (2 Timothy 4:3-4).
- Teach the whole counsel of God
- It's all about Jesus!
- And first and foremost – pray, seeking the inspiration and understanding Holy Spirit can give.

Those being taught:

Acts 17:11b says of the Bereans:

they received the word with all readiness,
and searched the Scriptures
daily to find out whether these things were
so.

Those being taught:

In Matthew 24:4-5 , Jesus says to his disciples:

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Summary (contd.):

- The goal of teaching is transformation, not merely transfer of information.
- We undertake this ministry with all diligence, representing God in all truth.
- As this ministry influences others, it carries great responsibility and carries a stricter judgement.

Summary:

- Simplicity is often the key, looking at the whole counsel of God and remembering Jesus is central to everything.
- Practice what you teach
- Pray for Holy Spirit inspiration
- Those receiving teaching have a responsibility too – to test all we hear against scripture. No teacher is infallible!