

Benefits of Expository Preaching

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1. It Highlights The Trinity- expository preaching, by its very nature, is a catalyst for dealing with the complete revelation of how God has revealed Himself to man—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. Expository preaching consistently draws the listener to see the beauty of God’s revelation of Himself, in Scripture, as three distinct person’s, yet one divine nature.
2. It Focuses On The Centrality Of Christ- expository preaching will exalt Jesus Christ—the Word. It will lead to exulting in Him as the central focus of preaching, life itself, and as the head of the church.
3. It builds A Solid Foundation For The Church- expository preaching establishes, builds, and solidifies the foundation and growth of the church on the eternal Word of God, not modern trends, marketing techniques, pragmatism, or philosophies of man.
4. It Creates A Word-Dependent Church- expository preaching models the church’s need to fully depend upon the Word (Scripture)—“*for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
5. It Models Word-Centered Worship- expository preaching teaches and models the priority of the Word in corporate worship. Any other type of preaching, which eludes expounding and explaining God’s truths, lends itself to anthropocentric proclamation and /or man-centered worship. Man-centered proclamation /worship erroneously teaches the church the importance and sufficiency of man’s wisdom or rhetorical skills over divine revelation.
6. It Enhances Spiritual Maturity- expository preaching advances the preacher’s spiritual growth and maturity in Christ through extended and intense study of the Scriptures (in context). In return, the church is edified as the preacher grows in offering a greater depth, understanding, and glimpse of God’s glory in his preaching.
7. It Models Word-Centered Bible Study- expository preaching teaches the church how to study the bible—seeing truths exposed from a faithful examination of the text in context, seeking the authors original intended meaning, and then applying it to their own lives with the aim of being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.
8. It Exposes The Great Biblical Doctrines Of The Faith- expository preaching will lead the preacher to uncover and cover important theological texts, which consist of the great doctrines of the Christian faith.
9. It Provides Protection- expository preaching protects the church from heresy and false teachers by teaching the body God’s truths (theology) over and against the divisive and erroneous philosophies of man and Satan.

10. It Helps Establish A Pure Testimony (Christian Worldview) - expositional preaching enables the church to build and establish a pure testimony based upon obedience to the eternal truths of God's Word. It guards the church from syncretizing God's truth and character with man's self-centered perspective of the church, which can and often does reflect a self-serving, all about me, self-help mentality.
11. It Helps The Preacher Be A Good Steward Of Sermon Preparation Time- expositional preaching eliminates wasted time fretting over what to preach from week to week when implementing a verse-by-verse, book-by-book methodology.
12. It Presents A Healthy Challenge To The Preacher and Church Body- expositional preaching (verse-by-verse method) causes preachers to address difficult and challenging texts (subjects) that might otherwise be avoided.
13. It Offers Relevancy with Authority- expositional preaching will reveal the relevancy of the Word of God to the everyday lives of the audience. This is done with authority as the preachers stays true to the original intent of the author—God.
14. It Creates A Delight In The Word- expositional preaching that exults in the revelation of God will teach the body to joyfully approach the Scriptures in order to delight in God and adhere to His instructions for life, which leads to abundant life and blessing.
15. It Fuels Proclamation With Power From Above, Not Below- expository preaching is empowered by God's Spirit because it seeks to honor the Spirit's voice (written revelation) in heralding the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which reflects and honors the greatness of God the Father.
16. It Makes Great Of/Glorifies God - expositional preaching gives glory to God by beginning with the text and allowing the text to drive the message for the people. Expounding upon the greatness of God in Jesus Christ, through His Spirit, by preaching the Word, which is an act of obedience and worship, brings glory to God.

Alistair Begg:

1. It gives glory to God alone- Expository preaching gives glory to God, which ought to be the ultimate end of all we do.
2. It makes the preacher study God's Word- Expository Preaching demands that the preacher himself become a student of the Word of God.
3. It helps the congregation- Expository Preaching enables the congregation to learn the Bible in the most obvious and natural way.
4. It demands treatment of the entire Bible- Expository Preaching prevents the preacher from avoiding difficult passages or from dwelling on his favorite texts.
5. It provides a balanced diet- Expository preaching assures the congregation of enjoying a balanced diet of God's Word.
6. It eliminates Saturday night fever- Expository preaching liberates the preacher from the pressure of last-minute preparation on Saturday night.¹

¹Alistair Begg, *Preaching For God's Glory* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1999), 33-39.

Walter L. Liefeld

1. Expository preaching conveys the biblical revelation of God and his will.
2. It teaches God's Word in the setting chosen by the Holy Spirit.
3. It meets human needs. It is more likely that an explanation of a passage will speak to human needs than will a presentation of my observations on a topic.
4. Expository preaching directs the attention of the hearer to the Bible.
5. Protects against the improper interpretation of Scripture.
6. We can be more confident of preaching God's will when we preach his Word.
7. We are confined to biblical truth. Subjectivism is minimized.
8. We preach through Scripture we proclaim the 'whole counsel of God' rather than ride our favorite "hobby horses."
9. The context of the passage usually includes its own application. This provides direction as to how the passage should be applied today.
10. Scripture often provides a literary structure that can form the basis for a sermon outline.
11. We can include touchy subjects in the course of sequential exposition without being obtrusive.
12. Expository preaching gives the preacher a fine opportunity to model Bible Study.²

Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix:

1. Biblical Literacy- Systematic exposition, especially, enhances knowledge of the Bible. By careful, exegetical study through books of the Bible you will become a master of the Scriptures, and your listeners will become knowledgeable students.
2. Accountability- Exposing the truth of a given text holds the preacher accountable in such areas as: preaching what God says and not what the preacher wants to say; makes the preacher work—a lazy preacher is inexcusable; forces preachers to deal with passages that might otherwise be overlooked or even intentionally avoided.
3. Protection- Protects the preacher from a number of pitfalls, such as: keeps him out of a rut—one-subject mentality; guards against using the Bible as a club.
4. Stress Relief- exposition all but removes anxiety about what to preach.
5. Appetite Development- exposition gives people an appetite for the Word that prompts them to go home and search the Scriptures for themselves.
6. Spiritual Maturity- people receive strength through a faithful diet of expositional preaching. A reservoir of Bible truth is built within them that enables them to face times of crisis.³

²Walter L. Liefeld, *New Testament Exposition: From Text to Sermon* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 7-13.

³Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix, *Power in the Pulpit: How to Prepare and Deliver Expository Sermons* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 32-37.

Ramesh Richard

1. Helps the preacher:
 - a. Grow personally in knowledge and obedience by your disciplined exposure to God's Word
 - b. Conserve time and energy used in choosing a sermon for each week
 - c. Balance your area of "expertise" and preferred topics with breadth of God's thoughts in the Bible.
2. Helps your congregation:
 - a. Be faithful to the text and be relevant to your context in regular ministry.
 - b. Implement a strategy for equipping and energizing your people for long-term faithfulness to God and the ministry.
 - c. Overcome your tendency to target a sermon to a particular person or group and be protected from that charge.
 - d. Avoid skipping over what does not suit your taste or temperament on any given day.
 - e. Carry on a cohesive ministry in the middle of multiple dimensions and demands on you as a pastor.
 - f. Enhance the dignity of the pastoral work since you stand under the authority of God's Word as you preach.
 - g. Integrate the conversation of the church around the message of the week.
 - h. Communicate the intentions of God for your congregation as seen by its human leaders.
 - i. Orient people around a common vision, thus helping your surface the voluntary labor force needed to achieve the vision.
 - j. Motivate people to action in implementing the program of the church with God's sanction.
 - k. Garner the credibility needed to lead the church to change.
 - l. Model effective ministry to present and future teachers and preachers.
 - m. Outline the agenda for corporate spirituality.
 - n. Make your congregation biblically literate.⁴

Sidney Greidanus

Benefits of expository preaching for the church:

1. Causes the Scriptures to be heard in the church, thus enabling the members to gain an understanding of the Scriptures.
2. Gives the hearers a measure of assurance that they are hearing the word of God.
3. Aids the critical functioning of the church since it provides the hearers with the textual limits for testing the spoken word against the written word; thus the hearers can decide more responsibly whether a message deserves acceptance.⁵

⁴Ramesh Richard, *Preparing Expository Sermons*: (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001), 17-18.

⁵Sidney Greidanus, *The Modern Preacher And the Ancient Text* (Grand Rapids: William Eerdmans, 1998),

John Stott

1. Exposition sets us limits. It restricts us to the scriptural text, since expository preaching is biblical preaching.
2. Exposition demands integrity. Preachers must seek to answer the question, what did the original author intend his words to mean?
3. Exposition identifies the pitfalls we must at all costs avoid—forgetfulness and disloyalty. The forgetful expositor loses sight of his text by going off at a tangent and following his own fancy. The disloyal expositor appears to remain with his text, but strains and stretches it into something quite different from its original and natural meaning.
4. Exposition gives us confidence to preach. If we are expounding God's Word with integrity and honesty, we can be very bold.⁶

Bryan Chapell

1. Expository preaching presents the power of the Word. Biblical exposition binds the preacher and the people to the only source of true spiritual change—the Word.
2. Expository preaching presents the authority of the Word. The answer to radical relativism of our culture with its accompanying uncertainties is the Bible's claim of authority.
3. Expository preaching presents the work of the Spirit. When we proclaim the Word we bring the work of the Holy Spirit to bear on others lives.⁷

Charles Reynolds Brown

1. It was the type of preaching done by the apostles.
2. It insures the preacher's thorough knowledge of the Bible.
3. It also insures the people's more thorough knowledge of the Bible.
4. It develops the Scriptural point of view.
5. It results in a more honest use of the Bible.
6. The systematic study of book after book of the Bible guarantees order in preaching.
7. This method insures the inclusion of certain difficult themes which the preacher might otherwise tend to avoid.

⁶John Stott, *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century* (Grand Rapids: William Eerdmans, 1982, reprint 1997), 126-133.

⁷Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994), 22-25.