

Being the Best Teacher

Communicating with all your Personal Resources

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Learn how to go from teaching to being a teacher. Being a teacher is not what you do but who you are. This can only be accomplished when one realizes that this calling is bigger than one's self. Learn what ingredients are essential for the Lord to create a teacher that can glorify Him. Making a plan, personal preparation, how to make your point and taking advantage of the personality that God is developing in you is of utmost importance.



Intro. – Most teachers, if they are honest with themselves, do not do their best when teaching. In fact, most tend to make excuses why they are not a better teacher. The main reason for this is that they view teaching as what they do, not who they are.

The definition of teacher is: one who teaches. What does it mean to teach?

- *To show or explain to someone how to do something
- *To give instruction or information about a subject or skill
- *To encourage someone to accept something as fact or principle
- *To cause someone to learn or understand something by example or experience
- *To make someone less inclined to do something.

The importance of being a teacher is even more important when we realize that we are not sharing secular ideas to individuals to make a physical change in their mind. But, we are sharing eternal truths which will shape our listeners in body, soul and spirit. So, how do you become the best teacher?

I. **REALIZE THIS CALLING COMES FROM GOD**

This calling may not be an individual calling like Jeremiah was called and ordained to be a prophet. But there is a generalized calling in scripture for us to teach or instruct not only the next generation, but to exhort one another as well – *Heb. 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

Psalm 34:11, "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

Because this opportunity and responsibility of teaching affects eternity it is imperative that we -

A. Teach in _____ – the idea here is that when we teach we don't hope there will be a difference in someone's life; we know there will be a difference. **Life change will take place when we teach in faith!** *James 1:5-6, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.* When a teacher teaches in faith, knowing God will make a difference in those lives whom they are teaching, several attributes are seen in them:

1. Confidence
2. Purpose
3. Drive
4. Energetic
5. Compassion
6. Consistency
7. Seriousness
8. Responsible
9. Burden
10. Zeal

B. Don't Teach in _____ – many teachers feel as though they are wasting their time. They honestly do not believe they are making a difference in the lives of their listeners. Fear causes attributes that are opposite of faith. These teachers are attributed with:

1. Uneasiness
2. Complacency
3. Laziness
4. Idle
5. Indifference
6. Double-minded
7. Flippant
8. Unreliable
9. Selfish
10. Apathy

You either teach in faith or in fear. You cannot do both at the same time. And to fully realize the importance of your position as a Christian teacher you must acknowledge that what you have to say is more important than you. This real focus gets your mind off of you and on to Him! Remember: *Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

II. REQUIRE _____ & _____ OF YOURSELF

Again, most teachers do not become the best teacher because they do not require enough of themselves. When a teacher does not plan ahead it shows. When a teacher does not prepare themselves for the class ahead it is obvious. When we talk about planning or preparing one's self to teach the focus here that we are dealing with is not what we are teaching but how we teach. Most any teacher can follow a Bible lesson plan or Sunday school curriculum. Most teachers know what they need to teach but they have not learned how to properly teach.

A. _____ Your Aim To A Single Idea

While a lesson or topic may have several points that need to be made, make sure your focus remains on a single idea. The focus here is to drive one nail or idea home in your listener's minds. And while you may hit that nail from several different angles or sides you are still driving that one idea home.

1. Boil the lesson down to a single truth
2. Be concise in your thoughts or statements

B. Present This Truth On Your Listener's Level

Again, most teachers expect young listener's to understand any truth given. But, more often than not, this truth is not presented on a low enough level for them to understand.

C. Apply The _____ Needed to Get That Truth Across

Determine what visuals are necessary to cement that truth into the listener's hearts and minds. **In other words just don't say the truth; show the truth!** This produces application which is your goal.

D. Review The Truth Taught – Repetition is the key to learning!

To do all of the above requires some learned skills. Teaching skills can include: story-telling, personal eye contact, animation, reading your class, controlling your class and drawing the net.

III. _____ YOUR OWN PERSONALITY

More often than not, most teachers try to conceal their personality when teaching. This is a major reason why they are not the best teacher they can be. Do not hide your personality – release it and utilize it as a tool to help you teach. God made you the way He did for a special and specific reason. Use this to your advantage – *Psalm*

139:14, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

A. Be Transparent

1. Do not hide who you are.
2. Do not try to become someone you are not.

B. Know Your _____ – how do people distinguish your character from others? Traits are your actions, attitudes & behavior. Some traits often utilized by teachers are humor, wit, sarcasm, tears and imagination.

Be honest about your own traits. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

1. Utilize your Strengths – Evaluate yourself and let others evaluate you. This helps you determine what areas you are strongest in.
2. Strengthen your Weaknesses – be honest with yourself about the weak areas in your personality. Identify them and figure out how to strengthen each one of these areas.

When a listener accepts you as a person or personality then they will accept what you say!

CONCLUSION: Are you satisfied with the teacher you have become? Are you guilty of just teaching instead of being a teacher? Today, are you willing to realize this calling is from above? And that only what's done by faith will please Him. Are you willing to prepare yourself and plan properly not what to teach, but how to teach? Are you willing to apply skills to your arsenal that will equip you how to teach more properly? Will you release your own personality and become the teacher God intended you to be?

ANSWER KEY: Faith, Fear, Planning, Preparation, Reduce, Visuals, Release, Traits