



Discovering Your Design:

Preparing Christ's followers to change the world

TEACHING

DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO TEACH GOD'S WORD WITH CLARITY, APPLYING IT WITH ACCURACY SO THAT PEOPLE GROW IN CHRISTIAN MATURITY.

- Teaching has transformation of character as its goal, not the transfer of information.
- Teaching is closely linked with the gifts of shepherding, knowledge and wisdom.
- This gift needs to be exercised within the parameters set forth in Scripture. See especially I Timothy 2: 12, where women are prohibited to teach or exercise authority over a man. (The understanding of this text is that God has an order of creation which is to be reflected in the home and in the church. In this order there is complete equality between men and women, but differing roles. All the gifts are available to all Christians. The prohibition in 1 Timothy 2:12 keeps women from exercising an Elder-like role over men. Women with the gift of teaching will be able to teach in most all forums, with the exception being an on-going role of teaching men).
- Teaching requires character- Paul instructs Timothy to find faithful men who will be qualified to teach - this qualification deals with one's character as well as their giftedness (cf. 2 Timothy 2:2).
- Explaining what the Bible says in order to apply it to others is at the heart of teaching.

Biblical References: Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28,29; Ephesians 4:11

Contribution: this gift brings growth, health and protection to the body; it helps the body grow by teaching and applying the Bible so that people better know how to love God and love each other.

Biblical Examples: Jesus (Matthew 7:29); Paul (Acts 19:8-10, II Timothy 1:11); Timothy (II Timothy 2:1,2)

Characteristics - People with this gift:

- are learners - they enjoy studying the Bible
- excite others to learn and motivate God's people to obey and grow
- have the ability to take the complex and make it understandable

Cautions:

- remember that we will undergo a stricter judgment - practice what we teach (James 3:1)
- remember the most difficult task is not what to say, but what to leave out
- when handling the Word of God remember that we must not assert what the Bible does not or fall short of what it does teach. **Big T little f** = keep the "truth" (T) of God's Word front and center and keep your own "framework" (f) and opinions subservient to the text.
- make sure that the truth of the text and its application has gone through your heart before the lesson goes through your lips
- don't compromise the Word of God by trying to please your hearers (cf. II Timothy 4:3,4)
- don't forget to teach the whole counsel of God's Word
- stick to the story line of the Bible - God redeeming a people to Himself through Christ for His glory. Christ unlocks the Old and New Testament!

Christian Responsibility: Paul reminds us to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16). We all have the responsibility and privilege to teach others.