

P.R.E.A.C.H.

A lot of good things happening at North Collin right now. If you've been to our worship training sessions, you know we recently started a study that asks us to think about why we worship before we talk about how we worship. I've really enjoyed the discussions and the thoughtful comments people have shared. One thing that stood out to me is how important it is for us to come before God with clean hearts and hands, giving Him what He deserves. This made me reflect on the role of preaching. We often talk about what makes someone qualified to be an elder or deacon, but we don't always talk about what you should expect from a minister. I don't want to overlook this, and I'm not trying to pressure anyone into this role, but I do believe it's a wonderful way to serve, and we always need sincere men who are committed to God, His word, and His people. I hope I can encourage you today as we think about what it means to be a preacher. I pray I'm living this out as God wants me to. If I'm not, please let me know. So, with that being said, let's turn our attention to this question: what are some important things to consider if someone wants to preach?

Patience (Change comes slowly).

- 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Titus 3:1-2
- Someone once said, "Preachers are like alarm clocks: you can wake someone up, but not get them out of bed." Transformation rarely comes overnight. Don't make it about yourself - it's not personal. Remember how long it takes you to change. Don't think what you're doing is pointless even if change never occurs.

Respect (God's word and God's people).

- 2 Tim. 1:8, 13-14; 2:1-2
- Our love for God results in a deep love for what He's communicated. We need to trust that God is correct and knows best. We don't change Scripture to say what we want, even if our intentions are good. We think we may know what's best for this person, but God is their creator. We follow His voice over all others. We treat His word with respect and share it with others who will do the same.

Endurance (Keep going when it gets hard).

- 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 4:3-5
- Inevitably, you'll have to share news that may hurt the hearts of the hearers and offend them, but it's always better than tickling their ears. This brings us back to the previous point. This role is not for the thick-skinned, nor is it for hard hearts. We have to learn how to preach the truth boldly.

Authenticity (Let it come from the heart).

- 1 Tim. 1:5-7; 1 Cor. 2:1-2
- What's our goal in preaching? Why even preach to begin with? What are we looking to get out of it? Better question: Who are we looking to help? Ourselves or others? Do we truly love the Lord? Do we see His beauty? Do we want Him to be King, or are we attempting to create our own kingdom?

Consistency (Live what you preach).

- 1 Tim. 4:11-16; 6:6-10; Titus 2:7-8

- You can say all you want, but if you don't live it, your preaching will be in vain. Hypocrisy is a faith killer. What's the point of spending all your time studying if you turn your back on the words you read all day as soon as you close the Bible? Our lives will either shut the door on faith or open hearts to Jesus.

Humility (He must increase).

- Titus 1:1; 3:3-7; 1 Cor. 3:5-9; Jn. 3:25-30

- What a blessing it is that God has entrusted His word to a flawed people. This is so much bigger than any one of us. It's about getting behind the cross. It's not about growing in popularity. It's not about being the slick "pulpit preacher." It's not how much you can get paid or how many invitations the brotherhood sends your way. It's about bringing others to Jesus so He can increase while we decrease.