



# Common Preaching Mistakes

## And How You Can Avoid Them

Prepared  
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# I. Preaching Mistakes

- Preaching for money or material gain only (1 Thess. 2:4-5; Jude 4)
- Preaching with wrong motives in order to hurt other preachers (Phil. 1:15-17)
- Preaching in order to make a name for yourself
- Preaching error and false doctrine (Gal. 1:6-9)

# I. Preaching Mistakes

- Preaching because you believe it is relatively easy to do and you can make good money doing it
- View preaching as a competition
- Not knowing, or forgetting, the fundamental purpose of preaching: to proclaim God's word; to express, not impress

# I. Preaching Mistakes

- Using the pulpit to make a personal attack on someone in the audience
- Using the pulpit to address political candidates rather than the gospel

## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Acting hypocritically: you, your wife, or your children are not practicing what you preach (Mt. 23)
- Not living a pure, personal life: pornography, fornication, lying, stealing, factious, etc.
- Neglecting your own marriage or family while doing the work of the preacher

## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Making sure the brethren live right without making sure your own wife or children are living right
- Not being organized during the week to accomplish all that needs to be done in an efficient way
- Associating with and working only with a certain group or “clique” of preachers

## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Defending your preacher friends rather than defending the truth of God's word
- Spending more time reading denominational literature than reading the Bible
- Not taking advantage of the wisdom and advice of older preachers on matters of doctrine or how to handle situations that come up

## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Suffering from time management problems
- Not getting along well with other members; problems with social skills outside of the pulpit (1 Cor. 9:20-23)
- Making up your mind about a Bible doctrine before digging deep to study the matter



## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Quickly posting your opinions and beliefs online about Bible matters before taking the time to fully study the subject and before considering all sides of an issue
- Being more concerned about your social media following than following the truth of God's word

## 2. Preacher er Mistakes

- Not being willing to truly sacrifice and serve to do the work of the evangelist
- Being focused on one issue only
- Failing to fight against sin, worldliness, and denominationalism

## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Not taking seriously the issues of the past that former sound brethren contended for (Bible authority, institutionalism, Calvinism, etc.)
- Not appreciating what was handed you by former godly brethren

## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Changing basic Bible doctrines that have been taught one way in order to accommodate an audience that is influenced by modern culture
- Not praying for wisdom
- Being envious or jealous of other preachers – Phil. 1:15 - older (who are wiser, 1 Tim. 5:1) or younger (who are more knowledgeable, 1 Tim. 4:12)

## 2. Preacher Mistakes

- Wanting to be like a “popular” preacher rather than just being yourself (2 Cor. 8:18; Gal. 2:6)
- Leaning too much on helps like PowerPoint (including graphics) or quoting from “the scholars”
- Believing I have to do certain things to be successful: write for the journals, hold gospel meetings, etc.

## 2. Preacherer Mistakes

## 3. Sermon Mistakes

- Not giving the appropriate time to sermon preparation
- Using a sermon from someone else, but not studying it enough to make it your own
- Delivering a message that is not well organized: the intro., body, and conclusion lack coherence and organization, or, they are lacking all together

## 3. Sermon Mistakes

- Delivering a message without practical application; giving information without transformation
- Preaching only topical sermons; never textual or expository sermons
- Preaching the same topics over and over again without preaching “the whole counsel of God”



### 3. Sermon Mistakes

- Preaching beyond the average attention span
- Using more stories, anecdotes, jokes, etc., than scripture
- Focusing more on body movements and rhetorical skills (public speaking) than on the scriptural content and soundness of the message

## 3. Sermon Mistakes

- Not giving appropriate time for each main point in your lesson (too much time on the first point and not enough time for the rest of the points)
- Giving too much weight to the illustration and not enough weight to the Bible message