

# Designing Sermons for Effective Communication

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## I. The Principles

### A. Regarding Preaching

#### 1. Its Elements

“Preaching is the communication of divine truth through human personality to human personality for the building up of God’s people to the glory of God” (Warren Wiersbe, *The Dynamics of Preaching* [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999], p. 16).

- (1) The Text
- (2) The Preacher
- (3) The Congregation

#### 2. Its Objectives, 2 Timothy 3:16

### B. Regarding Oral Communication

#### 1. The Nature of the Communication

The distinct differences between oral and written communication make it necessary for the speaker to put extra effort into clarity. Written communication has built-in devices and advantages to aid clarity. What are some of them?

#### 2. The Needs of the Congregation

- a. The listeners have hopefully not worked...
- b. The listener does not have a...

## II. The Process

### A. Recognize the difference between textual and sermonic outlines.

1. The textual outline is how the biblical writer communicated his message.

2. The sermonic outline is how you plan to communicate the biblical idea.

B. Base the organization of the sermon around the textual theme.

1. Every unit of logical communication communicates a single idea.
2. That unit is comprised of a subject (what it is about) and complement (what it is saying about the subject). Another set of labels is topic and assertion.
3. The sermon should focus on a timeless, relevant expression of the biblical idea contained in that unit of Scripture.
  - a. Exegetical statement
  - b. Principle statement
  - c. Homiletical statement

C. Determine the primary thrust of the sermon.

1. Explanation
2. Argumentation
3. Application

D. Build the structure of the sermon around the placement of the theme and its contemporary relevance within the biblical flow of thought.

1. Placement of the theme.
  - a. Front-end or delayed.
    - i. Common descriptors are deductive vs. inductive approach, but I don't think those are best simply because those words don't what they're being used to describe.
    - ii. Front-end placement of the theme means...
    - iii. Delayed placement of the theme means...

b. Front-end works best if...

c. Delayed works best if...

2. Placement of the contemporary relevance.

a. Relevancy at the end.

i. Brief introduction—explain entire passage—contemporary application

ii. When might we do this?

b. Relevancy interspersed.

i. Introduction—unfold one part of text—contemporary application—next part of text—contemporary application...

ii. When might we do this?

c. Relevancy wrapped.

i. Introduction explores contemporary application—unfold first part of biblical passage—unfold second part of biblical passage—contemporary application

Here's what's going on in our lives.  
The same thing was going on in the biblical world.  
Here's how they handled it.  
Here's how we should handle it.

ii. When might we do this?