

The Culture of Wildwood Preaching

The reformers believed that God Himself speaks when The Word of God is preached rightly. Sermons are used by God in many ways in the lives of people. The Word of God is useful for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. The Holy Spirit often uses The Word of God to convict, instruct, and convert.

The Word of God is flawless - preaching is not. And while preaching is limited in its ability to make mature and equipped followers of Jesus, it is nonetheless powerfully used by God. The preacher should never allow the limited effect of preaching to discourage him from believing God can and will use the flawed voice of the preacher to do eternal things. Thus he should never stop seeking to hone his craft.

Wildwood utilizes a teaching team and each teacher should use his own voice. The church is blessed by the differing insights, perspectives, and experiences each pastor brings to a text. The same Holy Spirit teaches these different preachers. He uses each voice to draw both sinner and saint to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

With this in mind, there are five common threads we want to weave through our teaching. Each member of the team should strive to include these five elements in the sermon while doing it in his own way. Lord willing, the people of Wildwood will come to expect:

1. The Gospel

At least in kernel form, the gospel is included with the exposition in every sermon.

2. Humility

Preaching is done from a vulnerable and transparent posture. While it may not be warranted in every sermon, it should be normative for the preacher to speak of his own weakness.

3. Respect

Respect for the believer and unbeliever alike marks the tone and choice of words. Sin should be condemned and erroneous philosophy should be exposed. But all correction and rebuke should be done while upholding the image of God in all mankind.

4. A Trinitarian Message

While it may not be as obvious in each sermon, the aim for every sermon is to be God-Honoring (the glory of God is the chief end of the sermon), Christ-Centered (Jesus is the hero of every passage), and Spirit-Filled (Divine power is needed to become a doer of the word).

5. Application

Clarity, rather than confusion, is given on next steps. The end goal in every sermon is to help God's people become doers of the Word rather than hearers only.