

Teachable: Teaching and Admonishing One Another – Col. 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 3:16, 4:2

Introduction: For the last nine weeks we have been talking about understanding and living out the one anothers of the New Testament. Here's the ones we have talked about

- ***We are to love one another. Honor one another. Accept one another. Live in harmony with one another.***
- ***We are members of one another and we need each other in the church family.***
- ***We are to put up with one another and forgive each other just as God in Christ has forgiven us so that the Body of Christ may be marked by love and peace.***
- ***We are to bear one another's burdens.***
- ***We are to encourage one another.***
- ***This week we add the final one in this series – we are to teach and admonish one another.***

Illus. How teachable are you? Very (Lifelong learner – Guitar age 39); and not so much (Anger issue)

Theme: ***We should live out the gospel truth in our lives; teaching and admonishing each other with both wisdom and tact so that God might use us to build up one another to the glory of God. We are to live it and teach it and sing it.***

Summary of Col. 3:16-17:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... (v. 16)

1. ***'with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another'*** (v. 16)
2. ***'with gratefulness singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs wholeheartedly to God'*** (v. 16)
3. ***'whatever you do...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus'*** (v. 17)

A. 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly' (v. 16)

- a) ***'the Word of Christ' - not Christ's words but the message about or concerning Christ, the gospel truth, which of course includes Christ's words.***
- b) ***'dwell in you richly' – The gospel truth is to be seen among you, i.e. in the community, in a rich and powerful way. We are to live it and teach it and sing it.***

1. 'with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another' (v. 16)

- a) ***'with all wisdom...' – God's wisdom yet applied to life in the church and in our communities. It shows up in all our teaching - moral, doctrinal, financial, social and cultural.***

"...this true wisdom, for which Paul previously prayed, shows itself in a practical way: the teaching and admonition are given in a thoughtful and tactful way." Peter O'Brien, Colossians, Philemon, p. 208.

- b) ***We are to teach or instruct one another in the truth (cf. Rom. 15:14)***
- c) ***We are to admonish or counsel one another by the truth (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17)***

Doctrine and ethics - “Four spheres are now mentioned in which the usefulness of Scripture can be seen. The former two relate to doctrine and the latter two to practice. Profitable for doctrine refers to positive teaching while reproof represents the negative aspect. On the ethical plane, the Scriptures provide both correction and instruction...” Donald Guthrie, *The Pastoral Epistles*, p. 164.

Creed and conduct - “As for creed, Scripture is profitable ‘for teaching the truth and refuting error’. As for conduct, it is profitable ‘for reformation of manners and discipline in right living’.” John Stott, *Guard the Gospel*, p. 102.

So the Scriptures are to be taught as a truth system, the faith; in which there is both the positive teaching of doctrinal truth and the refutation of unorthodox beliefs that are destructive and damaging. Likewise the Bible contains moral truth which is to be lived out and we are to use it to correct our thinking and our actions while also learning more about how to live to please God by our moral behavior. Said another way if the Scripture is not life changing for you then you are using them in the wrong way. The Word of God must change us in both our beliefs and in our behaviors. Then, we will be mature or equipped to serve God and others by our good deeds.

- 2. ‘with gratefulness singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs wholeheartedly to God’ (v. 16)**
 - a) *with gratefulness singing*
 - b) *psalms, hymns and spiritual songs*
 - c) *wholeheartedly to God*

¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, **Ephesians 5:19 (NIV)**

Illus. – Challenge and Chris Tomlin

B. Singing the Truth – The power of song – God made us this way!

“Music has been an important mnemonic device for thousands of years. David C Rubin is a specialist in autobiographical memory and oral traditions and in his ground-breaking book *Memory in Oral Traditions* he explains how epic stories like Homer’s *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* were passed down verbally using poetic devices. Before the narratives could be written down, they were chanted or sung. Oral tradition depended on memory.” – Tiffany Jenkins, *Why Does Music Evoke Memories*, BBC website - <http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20140417-why-does-music-evoke-memories>

1. Memory

“He (the tester) asked a large sample of subjects who did not have absolute pitch to sing popular songs and compared the produced pitch with the actual pitches used in the recordings of these songs [2]. Approximately 50% of the subjects sang the song in the correct pitch, at least in one or two experimental sessions.” Lutz Jancke, *Music, memory and emotion*, (National Institute of Health) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2776393/>

2. Emotions

“When we hear a familiar song, we are often able to recall a moment from our past that is connected to that tune. Favorite songs tickle our memory in various ways; your child may even complain of “getting a song stuck in her head,” which shows that music is easily ingrained in our memory.

Music has been found to stimulate parts of the brain, and studies have demonstrated that music enhances the memory of Alzheimer's and dementia patients, including a study conducted at UC Irvine, which showed that scores on memory tests of Alzheimer's patients improved when they listened to classical music." - Cheri Lucas, Education.com, Boost Memory and Learning with Music, <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/boost-memory-and-learning-with-music/>

3. Mood enhancer – As noted research shows that music is a mood enhancer.

- 3. 'whatever you do...do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,' (v. 17)**
- a) whether in word or deed,
 - b) giving thanks to God the Father through him

Read Colossians 3:16-17 in the NLT

C. Preach the Word (2 Tim 4:2) – A Pastor's Calling

- 1. Ready** – 'in season and out of season'
- 2. Reprove, Correct – Doctrine, beliefs;** One of the most challenging roles for a preacher is to speak in order to change the listener's beliefs or behaviors. Yet this is one of the tasks.
- 3. Rebuke – To walk the pilgrim's path;** Pastors at times must challenge the wrong actions of the flock or individual believers.
- 4. Exhort, encourage – Moral failings and character flaws;** Most often the role is that of a Shepherd encouraging us on in known paths; comforting when life's trouble hit the family; or exhorting the faithful to continue walking in the Word, ill and ways of God.

"Timothy must refute error by reasoned argument; and he must not hesitate to rebuke when censure is called for. More positively, he must exhort...urge his flock to repentance and perseverance." JND Kelly, The Pastoral Epistles, p. 206.

5. Patient teaching - 'with great patience and careful instruction' – the right medicine;
(cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:14)

Application: Am I teachable?

Illus. - "There is an old Taoist story about a student who comes to a master and asks him to teach him. The master invites the student to sit with him and have tea. While they are sitting, the master starts to converse with the eager young student. But every time the master starts to explain a point, the student would interrupt him and say, "Oh, I know that, I do this when that happens, or I don't have that problem because. . . ." Soon the master stopped talking and picked up the teapot. He began pouring tea into the student's cup. As the cup filled, he continued pouring until the cup overflowed and spilled out. The student shouted, "Stop! It is enough! My cup is full!" With that, the old master smiled and replied, "Yes, your cup is full, therefore I can teach you nothing until you empty your cup." - <https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/RA/k/1102/Are-You-Teachable.htm>

In his Blog Matt McWilliams ask this question: Are You Teachable?

"Four uncommon traits of highly teachable people

- 1. They shut up.** They don't talk much other than ask questions.

2. They dig deep. They ask follow-up questions, break things down, and dig deep into the content with the instructor or mentor.

3. They don't try to impress their teachers. We all want to show off. Admit it. Even the most humble person in the world wants to be perceived as intelligent. But in a learning situation, highly teachable people stop trying to impress and seek only to understand. Perhaps this is why you learn so well from books and audio. You are only taking it in, not trying to dish it out. There is no one to impress.

4. Ask questions they think they already know the answers to. This is the hallmark of a great learner. Highly teachable people are not afraid to ask questions about things they think they already know the answer to. I'm not referring to factual information (i.e. if you know who the 23rd President was, don't ask). But when it comes to best practices and how-to information, don't assume you have the answer. Assume your own ignorance. And don't be afraid or unwilling to ask the seemingly easy questions." - Matt McWilliams, Are You Teachable?, <http://www.mattmcwilliams.com/are-you-teachable/>

Am I teachable? If I am then I will...

- 1. Listen to God** - Have I put myself under the authority of Word of God?
- 2. Be Humble** - Will I listen to someone who is preaching the Word with a view to being transformed?
- 3. Not be defensive** - Am I open to my brother or sister in Christ speaking into my life regarding either my beliefs or my behaviors? Do I refrain from being critical of them?
- 4. Be transformed** - Do I see changes in my life that speak of spiritual transformation? Am I growing in new ways?