

Learning to Acquire a Wife: Using Exposition to Address Biblical Ethics

(Dr. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., 2019)

Using Expository Preaching to Address Ethical Issues

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.
GCTS President Emeritus
E.T.S.

The Biggest Needs in Our Pulpits

- ▶ Teaching Biblical Ethics
- ▶ Expository Preaching

J. I. Packer on Expository Preaching

“The true idea of preaching is that the preacher should become the mouthpiece for his text, opening it up and applying it as a word from God to his hearers, talking only in order that the text itself may speak and be heard.”

Kaiser’s Definition of Expository Preaching

“...is that method of proclaiming the Scriptures that takes as a minimum one paragraph(scene, strophe) of the Biblical texts and derives from that text both the **shape** of the message (focal point- the topic and its main points) and the **content** (substance, principles and teachings) from the Scripture itself.

Expository Preaching...

- ▶ The voice of God be heard- not the preacher
- ▶ Lets loose the mighty word of God in all its fullness and each passage in its own context and setting
- ▶ Avoids spiritual “junk food”- “meditations,” “ten minute topical sermonettes” and “ contemporary anecdotes”

Expository Preaching and Biblical Ethics and Morals

“What Does The LORD Require? A Guide for Preaching and Teaching Biblical Ethics”

Eighteen ethical issues with full exposition from one testament or the other as examples of how to use Expository Preaching to teach Biblical Ethics.

The Crisis in Expository Preaching

- ▶ Linked to whether or not there are divine absolute truths or not.
- ▶ Our capitulation to Relativism or Pluralism
- ▶ Abandonment of the Bible being altogether authoritative
- ▶ Denial of Scripture’s relevance for doctrine and morals
- ▶ Give them “what their itching ears want to hear – to suit their own desires.” (2 Tim 4:3)

Biblical Eschatology and Biblical Ethics

- ▶ Our understanding of the relation of law and grace
- ▶ Moral law in the Old Testament based on the character of God and therefore had an enduring effect
- ▶ Biblical ethics **NEVER** made obedience to law a matter of a work’s salvation **BUT** obeying was always a matter of grace

The Relevance of Biblical Ethics

- ▶ The **SUFFICIENCY** of the word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17) - We then should obey it!
- ▶ **BOTH** the Old **AND** the New Testaments are needed
- ▶ **Eliminate** Reductionism and “Christo-exclusivistic” message from the New Testament

Using Exposition to Teach Biblical Ethics

- ▶ Don’t “use a collection of randomly collected verses” to teach Biblical Methods – **WRONG!**
 - Its esoteric and beyond the ability of laypeople
 - Not as memorable as single-concise text
 - Fails to create “rallying-points” for believers to seek out in future need that a clear hearing of the voice God provides
- ▶ Modern issues not specifically addressed by the Bible – find the principles beyond the specificity of the immediate situation

Conclusions

1. Must receive in both theory and practice the preferred approach to delivering the word of God to his people.
2. Biblical ethics must also be taught by means of expository preaching.
3. So let expository preaching begin immediately, for all to many do not know what God’s standards are anymore!!!