



-- **Big Idea: Sound preaching overcomes opposition through integrity, dignity, accuracy, and acuity.**

1.) INTEGRITY (v. 7b)

Three Major Ways Preaching Lacks Integrity

a.) **SELFISH AMBITION** (2 Corinthians 2:17, 4:5)

-- Integrity in preaching fails when a preacher uses the Word of God to make much of himself rather than Christ.

b.) **PEOPLE PLEASING** (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

-- Preachers forfeit integrity in preaching when they ignore parts of God's Word that are unpopular or unsettling.

-- The portions of Scripture that **OFFEND** us most are often the very portions that we most need to hear.

-- Integrity in preaching demands boldness in preaching (Acts 4:29, Ephesians 6:19-20)

c.) **HYPOCRISY**

-- Few things do greater harm than preachers who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, but then deny Him by their lifestyle.

2.) DIGNITY (v. 7b)

-- Preaching of God's Word is as serious as it gets.

-- The main purpose of Scripture is to edify not to entertain.

3.) ACCURACY (v. 8a)

-- Sound preaching is first and foremost about fidelity to Scripture (2 Timothy 2:15).

- Preaching done in the name of Jesus Christ should be derived from and submissive to the Word of God.
- When God's servant preaches God's Word by God's power for God's glory, he imparts messages from God with divine authority.

4.) ACUITY (v. 8)

- Paul challenges preachers to put opponents to shame through superior logic, wisdom, and understanding (Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 4:2).
- Christian preaching is far too often marked by manipulative appeals to emotion and irrational argumentation.
- Jesus and the apostles present God's truth through sound arguments that overcome the errors of their opponents (Matthew 22:46, Acts 9:22, 17:2-3, 18:27-28).
- We do not check our **BRAINS** at the door when we trust in Christ (Matthew 22:37).
- One reason why many preachers preach intellectually shallow sermons is because that is what many professing Christians want to hear.
- Reclaiming the life of the mind is an urgent need for the whole church, and it begins with the preacher.

Application

- Preaching is one of the main means by which God saves, sanctifies, and solidifies His people as the body of Christ.
- It is vital for every believer to **RECOGNIZE** sound expository preaching.