

Exegetical Preaching and Expository Preaching

See this classical definition of Expository Preaching:

“ EP is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through him to his hearers.” Haddon Robinson

Several major points to catch:

1. It is communication. God talks to us/fellowships with us so we may respond to Him. Exod 3:5-6.
2. Transmission. Not just an explanation of text but the application of the text. John 1:3-5, 12)
3. Method. We understand His truth through the written word of God , not from culture or perception (Heb 1:1-2).
4. Media: The enabling of the Holy Spirit guides a preacher to His truth (Eph 1:17).
5. Reception: Not knowledge but transforming truth received from the preacher (1 Thess 1:9-10). There is direct relationship between the message and the messenger. EP has behind it the power of living God.

I. What is the similarity between Exegetical Preaching and Expository Preaching

	Exegetical Preaching	Expository Preaching
Content	From a single periscope(unit of Scripture)	Same
Scriptural Authority	As authoritative, inspired, inerrant and infallible word of truth from God in all things related to faith and life.(2 Ti 3:16-17; 1 Pet 1:23)	Same. This is the foundation of all the work of the Scripture. Authority comes from the text not from the preacher.
Path	Texts are explained and interpreted in the context.	Same but those steps may be hidden in a preacher’s delivery
Principle of interpretation	Historical, Grammatical and literary study of a text.	Same but this is not the end of the preparation of a sermon

Structure	May have introduction, main body and conclusion	Same but the outline looks different
Sermon	The text determines the sermon	Same
Goal	Deliver the Biblical meaning to the congregation	Same but to exhort and proclaim as well. 2 Tim 4:2

II. Differences between Exegetical Preaching and Expository Preaching

	Exegetical Preaching	Expository Preaching
Approach	Explanation of Texts	Development of a text to a homily
Definition	Collections of exegetical nuggets with some relationships with one another	EP is the communication of a biblical idea central to that text
Communication	Follows the flow of the text as a sequence of delivery	Demands a central, unifying idea to communicate effectively
Structure	Based on exegetical outlines	Outlined based on the movement of thoughts
Level of comprehension	Normally set on the level of the exegete	Set on the level of a 5 th grader.
Process	To seek out the truth based on observations, analysis and cross references on the words in the Scripture	Demands the text to be applied first to the preacher (in dis-locking presuppositions and worldviews from the preacher). Cf 1 Tim 4:12-16.
Purpose	To explain the truth	To confront, to convict, to convert and to comfort. "No significant belief or attitude held by any individual is apparently made on the basis of

		consciously perceived date.” (1 Thess 1:9-10)
Technical Skills	Concordance, analysis, grammar and history; Focus on the words of the text inside as they relate to the Bible	Requires on top the power of abstraction to move from exegetical outlines to homiletic outlines and then to communication outline; A preacher catches the congregation’s mind with some observation about life.
Supporting Materials	Mostly Biblical references	Examples, quotes, extracts, etc.
Agent	Delivery of the text by the exegete; Dependent on the discipline of the preacher	Transformation of the Biblical idea received by the preacher; A preacher’s mind is laid at the disposal of the Holy Spirit
Steps	Observations, word-study, data analysis and subdividing main points, etc; An exegetical preacher may stop once the conclusion is reached.	Beyond those steps, a preacher will ask 3 more questions (to remove obstacles from the audience): What does it mean? Is it true? What difference does it make?
Purpose	Accurate impartation of knowledge from God	Transformation based on faith and fact. Cf. Col 2:1-12. Romans 1:11-12: “mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”
Task	Exposition of the text	Illumination of the

	(hopefully not lecturing from the Bible about history and archaeology)	message by bridging timeless truth of the Bible to the contemporary people of his time.
Outcome	Recognition of the text (Cognitive)	Submission and Proper Response (Redemptive)
Truth factor	“there and then”	“here and now”
Audience	People seeking understanding	Audience groups needing shepherding (there are at least 6 groups in a congregation!)
Miscellaneous	Accuracy	Relevance

Misconceptions about Expository Preaching

1. It is a speech so simple to the ears of a listener.
In fact, simple words can contain profound truth.
2. It is not like a commentary.
In fact, EP pushes aside non essentials to aim for a crystal clear communication of a Biblical idea.
3. Outlines are missing.
EP uses thought units (like a symphony music) to seek conviction and transformation.
4. There are more examples than Biblical references in the sermon.
Preacher can decide on using texts to support text or use life-relevant examples to illustrate truth depending on the life a congregation (Cf. Acts. 17:22-28)
5. There ought to have to some word-by-word analysis.
“We do not understand the concepts of a passage merely because we analyze its separate words.” Haddon Robinson (Biblical Preaching, p. 20)

A few examples from Expository Sermons:

1. 1 Cor 8:1-13: The issue of meat sacrificed to idols.
Exegetical Preaching may work on this line:
Paul counseled the Corinthians to act primarily out of love, not knowledge
Expository Preaching/ Preaching Idea:
When you think about morally indifferent matters, be flexible.
2. Luke 10:25-37
Exegetical Preaching:

The parable is a beautiful explanation of the law of loving our neighbour as ourselves, without regard to nation, party, or any other distinction. It also sets forth the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward sinful, miserable men.—Matthew Henry Concise

Expository Preaching/Preaching Idea:

Your neighbor is anyone whose need you see whose need you are in a position to meet.

3. 1 Tim 4:12-16

Exegetical Preaching:

Paul exhorted Timothy to win respect (word studies ...) for his youth (his background and his relationship with Paul, 2 Tim1:5; Acts 17:14-15,Phil 2:19) by being an example in A) his actions (preaching, his duties and his previous ministry assignments, cf 1:3) and B) motives (His call 1:12, Titus 1:5) and C) by being diligent in the public ministry of the Scripture.

Expository Preaching:

You can win respect for your ministry by giving attention to your yourselves and your teaching

Example:

Introduction: What God sees a person is more than just his credentials...

Movement I: In His eyes, a servant of God demands respect from others

--Paul looks at Timothy and sees several trustworthy character:

He is willing to go with Paul for mission work (Cf. Acts 16:3)

He is willing to receive circumcision to avoid hindrance of the Gospel work (Acts 17:14-15, 19:22)

His work is affirmed publicly by Paul (Phil 2:19-22)

Movement II: Can a young fellow in Christ serve God effectively?

Yes, if he is willing to follow these advices:

--Be responsible for what is under his charge

He is not an apostle nor a bishop. But he is willing to be charged (Titus 1: 5, 1:11)

--Be careful of the delivery of the doctrine (1 Tim 2:5-8)

--Be watchful of his call and his holy living (4:12, 6:14)

Movement III: Lack of integrity can damage a Christian ministry

Timeless advice to younger Christians should ring a bell to everyone...

--what we proclaim has much to do with what you believe in

--what we hold on has much to do with your core values

--John Ashcroft: "You can resist everything... but watch out for temptation!"

-- "Never take credit for not falling into a temptation that never tempted you in the first place."- Billy Graham

Exhortation: where is your badge of honor?