

PASTOR'S PEN

I hope you enjoyed hearing Guenther preach God's Word this past Sunday. As I said at the end of the service, Guenther has really found his "voice" as a preacher. He uses a style that fits him. His style is different from my style, just as my style is different from the man who first taught me to preach. But Guenther used the same method of preparation that I learned from Bro. Skip. How can three men, preaching from the same text, using the same preparation methods, preach so differently? The answer is simple, God made each of us unique. If Guenther tried to preach exactly like me, he would fail at his task. Just as I would fail if I tried to preach like Bro. Skip. There are principles that we each follow but also our own personalities that makes the message of Jesus accessible to all.

Guenther's message and style of preaching started me thinking about mentoring and discipling. As a mentor, we must fight against the idea of trying to make our disciples like us. Our responsibility is to help our disciple learn the truths of God and the Bible, learn how to apply those principles, and live as God has built them. Bro. Skip taught me how to be a pastor, even more than Seminary did. He demonstrated the principles of pastoring and encouraged me to take those principles and fit them into my own personal style. Guenther will learn to do the same. For those who have taken on the role of discipling a new believer, I encourage you to use the material we provide as it has been prepared. This material is time tested and focuses on principles over methods. This allows the one being disciplined to find their own methods to live out the principles of the Christian life.