



**THE COMPELLING COMMUNITY
PREACHING EQUIPS OUR COMMUNITY | FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

INTRODUCTION

Nurturing the community we've talked about requires the church members being saturated in God's Word. And that's not something you can do in one _____ per week.

Preaching should create a congregation of minipreachers. It's equipping that _____ the supernatural community we all want to see in our church.

We don't merely want to start a few discipling relationships. We all want to see that loving others this way is part of _____ Jesus.

REAL CHANGE COMES FROM FAITH

At its core, every problem in our congregation is a problem of _____. If we want a culture of discipleship in our church, we must believe Jesus' words.

- We must believe "it is more blessed to _____ than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
- We must believe that we will grow best as we help _____ grow.
- We must believe that there is more joy in helping others than in an exclusive focus on our _____ spiritual health.
- The challenge of building a culture of discipleship is a challenge of _____.

God creates faith by His _____ (Romans 10:17). To see our church grow in faith-filled action, we must be saturated with God's Word.

WE NEED MORE THAN A SERMON

Our problem isn't just that we need to form spiritually intentional relationships with each other, but that we don't see this as an implicit part of following Jesus. We need a _____ change, not just a behavior change.

We need to see that the practical implications of discipleship show up _____ the Bible.

- We need to see how the Bible's "_____ " commands can be lived out.
- We need to see our friendships in the church become more spiritually _____.
- It can take years, but over time, thousands of _____ about how to apply God's Word can change our church culture.
- Over time, discipleship can change from unusual to _____.

Preaching gives people the tools to pick up that Word and become _____ themselves. The ministry of the congregation is the real agent of change (Ephesians 4:11-12).

PREACHING TO HELP PEOPLE USE GOD'S WORD

Pastors _____ the saints through the preaching of God's Word, and then they use God's Word to minister to each other.

That certainly starts with listening and with personal application — and yet, it is much more. In a Word-saturated congregation, a sermon doesn't _____ when it reaches the ears of the people. Instead, it continues its ministry through them day after day, all through the week.

1. Clarify the Congregation's Responsibility for Preaching

Responsibility for what preaching they _____ — In Galatians 1 and 2 Timothy 4:3, Paul admonishes the congregation for the preaching they listen to rather than simply addressing their teachers. Similarly, when the church at Pergamum tolerates the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans, the Spirit addresses the churches (Revelation 2:17).

Responsibility to _____ — James 1:22 reminds us that we are not merely to be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word. Similarly, according to Luke 12:48, every good work we hear increases our responsibility before God.

Responsibility to help _____ change — We must understand that preaching is a corporate activity, not an individual one. Change comes when the congregation uses preaching to minister to each other. Preaching that equips is not simply truth that we hear on Sunday, but truth that reverberates back and forth through the congregation all week long.

2. Equip the Congregation to Better Read the Scriptures

Pastors' preaching should equip the congregation to become ministers of the Word _____. It should show them how to mine the Scriptures for insight when pastors are not around.

Preach expositionally — Sermons should explain and apply the main point of a _____ of Scripture.

Preach to teach context — Sermons should show how the passage fits _____, how the logic flows through the text, and how the text connects to what came before it.

Preach from observation — The best tool for understanding Scripture is not a commentary or a seminary degree; it's _____. Thankfully, this tool is available to every Christian. As we ask questions in preaching, we show how the text answers those questions.

Encourage the congregation to _____/study the text ahead of time — If you are working through a book of the Bible, the congregation can read the next passage ahead of time, and even give thought to questions they have of the text before the congregation considers it corporately.

3. Provide Sermon Application that is Corporate and Collaborative

Sermon application can suggest conversations that the congregation can have together about the text later. It can also suggest ways the congregation can _____ for the church.