

SERMON EVALUATION FORM

Phillips Brooks once defined preaching as ‘truth through personality’. At Carey Baptist College we extend that definition and assert that effective preaching is about communicating *truth* through a *personality* in a way that engages *listeners* living in today’s world. As you assess the sermon you have heard, please do so with an ear attuned to each of these four areas: the text, the preacher, the listener, and the wider world. And please be honest and direct in your assessment of the student’s strengths and weaknesses. No one benefits from diluted and lukewarm feedback!

Under each of the four sections below, please:

- (a) answer the questions listed
- (b) insert any other comments you think might be helpful for the preacher’s development
- (c) at the end of each section give the student a mark from 1 to 5, according to the following scale:
 - 1 = “you are struggling here and not reaching a satisfactory level at all”
 - 2 = “I can glimpse some skills here, but they are going to need to become a lot stronger!”
 - 3 = “an adequate effort, but I will need more convincing before I am sure you are on track”
 - 4 = “yes, I see it – you have real promise in this area which, with practice, will ripen well!”
 - 5 = “outstanding; keep this up and you’ll keep me coming to church to hear you preach!”

Preacher:

Church/Setting:

Biblical Text:

Date of Sermon:

Sermon Length: _____ minutes

A. The truth: exegesis and clarity

1. The **focus** of this sermon was:

Sharp ←————→ *blurry*

In one sentence, what was the sermon trying to say?

2. The **main ideas** of this sermon:

obviously matched the main ideas of the biblical passage ←————→ *did not remotely match the main ideas of the biblical passage*

3. The **structure** of this sermon was:

clear ←————→ *unclear*

List the main point(s) or scenes as you remember them:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The **momentum** of this sermon was:

strong ←————→ *weak*

4. The **location** (how it fits and works within the narrative of Scripture) of this text:

was carefully explained ←————→ *was not explained at all*

5. The **preacher**:

pointed through this text to the gospel of Christ ←————→ *did not use this text to preach the gospel of Christ*

Other comments:

Mark (out of 5) _____

B. Listeners: delivery and connection

1. The preacher’s **eye contact** with the audience was:

excellent throughout ←————→ *extremely limited*

2. The preacher’s **voice** was:

clear and varied in tone, volume and speed ←————→ *flat and monotonous*

3. The preacher’s **gestures** were

natural and expansive ←————→ *awkward and constrained*

4. The sermon’s **opening**:

- engaged my interest
- signalled where the sermon was heading
- indicated why the message was important

5. The sermon's **conclusion**:

brought the sermon to a climax and drove the message home ←————→ *felt anti-climactic and confusing*

6. **Distractions**:

Was there anything distracting in the preacher's delivery?

Yes / No (circle one)

If "yes", what was it?

Other comments:

Mark (out of 5) _____

C. World: illustration and application

1. The **sermon** was:

richly illustrated with a wide range of images ←————→ *poorly illustrated with very few images*

List the images (examples, analogies, or metaphors) you remember:

2. The **illustrations** in this sermon were:

fresh, vivid and intriguing ←————→ *stale, bland and predictable*

3. The **illustrations**:

all served the message ←————→ *undermined the message*

4. The **implications** of the text for these listeners on this occasion:

were clearly identified ←————→ *were not carefully identified*

5. The **application** was:

specific, concrete and clear ←————→ *general, abstract and vague*

6. Can you list the main points of application (e.g. something to believe, confess, choose or do)?

7. The **call** to believe, confess, choose or do something:

was rooted in the good news of who God is and what he's done ←————→ *was completely disconnected from the gospel of Christ*

Other comments:

Mark (out of 5) _____

D. Preacher: character and credibility

1. Did you sense that the preacher was being:

authentic (she was being herself) ←————→ *artificial (she was putting on an act)*

2. Did the preacher come across as:

warm (he smiled a lot) ←————→ *cold (he seemed overly serious)*

3. Circle the words that you would use to describe the preacher:

humble vulnerable sincere relaxed
condescending distant flippant nervous

Other: _____, _____

4. Could you see passion and urgency in the preacher? In other words, did it feel as if the preacher really believed the message was important?

Yes / No (circle one)

Other comments:

Mark (out of 5) _____

Total mark for this sermon (out of 20) _____