

The Homiletic Oath

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

- ▶ I will live my life with a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit to speak to me through Scripture, my life experiences and my relationships.
- ▶ I will start with Scripture as the main source of authority for my preaching and rely on the Holy Spirit as the main source of my inspiration for each sermon.
- ▶ I will engage the context and the genre of the text when determining its original meaning and expound on exegetical knowledge only to illuminate and not to merely impress.
- ▶ I will elevate the action and agency of God as the main character of the Bible and treat all supporting characters in Scripture as mere humans, interacting with a God who pursues them and invites them to respond.
- ▶ I will commit to loving people by paying attention to their lives, their cultural backgrounds, their hopes, wounds and daily experiences when interpreting the meaning of the text and its application to our lives today.
- ▶ I will use a broad variety of illustrations and applications in order to embrace the diversity of the audience and to avoid the exclusion of those who are different than me.
- ▶ I will engage the mind of the listener by evoking intellectual curiosity about God, humanity and the world God loves.
- ▶ I will engage the heart of the listener by evoking love for Jesus, passion for the Kingdom of God and compassion for themselves, others and the world God loves.
- ▶ I will call the listener to action by providing practices and ways to respond to what God is putting on their minds and hearts.
- ▶ I will entrust the results of my preaching to the Holy Spirit and find my identity as a child of God and a friend of Jesus rather than in the success and failure of my preaching.
- ▶ Above all, I aim to serve and not harm those God has placed within reach of my voice as I rely on God to give me the courage to preach.