

Teaching That Transforms - Episode 370

Weekend Quality Check (Part 3)

How do you teach in a way that engages insiders without alienating the outsiders? How do you develop teachings that are relevant, relatable and truly transformational?

Sean and Amy address these questions and more in Part 3 of the “Weekend Quality Check” series.

In this episode, we dig into the core tensions pastors face in developing transformational messages that engage both insiders and outsiders, sharing practical solutions to navigate that tension while preparing messages. We also host Pastor Carlos Ortiz from Gateway Church in Austin, Texas, who shares insights about how he develops teachings that transform.

Key Quotes

1. AMY: “All truth is God’s truth, and when we present it in a way that’s helpful, relatable and relevant, it can reach both believers and unbelievers.”
2. AMY: “A good illustration, especially at the top of a service when we’re starting the message, helps build some trust and engagement with those listeners.”
3. SEAN: “Before you actually deliver that message on the weekend, find a mix of people that represent the people you’re trying to reach and get this message in front of them.”
4. CARLOS: “The empty praise of people who already love you can create this false sense of, ‘I’m a good teacher.’”

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

Set a meeting with the teaching team before your next Sunday, and perform a “Pre-brief” on the upcoming sermon, where you evaluate the message from the four areas Amy mentions in this episode:

1. Relatable: Does the sermon have well placed stories, illustrations and humor to connect with listeners?
2. Practical: Is the message Biblically based and relevant to everyday life?
3. Applicable: Are there clear next steps and an obvious application?
4. Engaging: Is the sermon authentic, understandable and continuously engaging?

If this proves to be a helpful exercise, make this a recurring weekly meeting and think about inviting people who may be in the target audience you’re trying to reach to join you on specific weeks.

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