



The Biblical Teacher: Why the Church Desperately Needs Sound Doctrine: Foundational Issues Part 7 | KIB 541

Kingdom Intelligence Briefing

Preface

Christian Post Article: Practicing Christians Use AI More Than Most Americans, Barna Finds

Practicing Christians are using artificial intelligence in both their work and personal lives more than most Americans, and nearly half of them say they would trust the technology with their spiritual growth, according to a recent survey from Barna Group.

¹

While AI can be a useful tool in research, the findings of the Barna Group reveal a systemic problem in the body of Messiah: There is a lack of trust in the fivefold ministry today. Regarding teaching, Paul warns us:

James 3:1 (ESV)

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Listen to how the Amplified Bible translates this verse:

James 3:1 (AMP)

¹ <https://www.christianpost.com/news/practicing-christians-use-ai-more-than-most-americans-barna.html>

1 NOT MANY [of you] should become teachers (self-constituted censors and reprovers of others), my brethren, for you know that we [teachers] will be judged by a higher standard *and* with greater severity [than other people; thus we assume the greater accountability and the more condemnation].

In a sense, this warning applies to four of the five ministries within the fivefold ministry. Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, and Teachers are all called to teach God's Word in one form or another. Jesus said this same warning another way:

Matthew 5:17–20 (ESV)

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Abolish and fulfill are specific Hebrew colloquialisms in the Second Temple Period. Fulfilling the Law meant that the teacher made the ways of God easy to understand and walk in. Those who abolished or destroyed the Law made it so complicated with additional rules that no one could understand or walk in them. The Rabbis of Jesus' time complicated God's instruction by their own rules and regulations (i.e., traditions of men) that they were guilty of making the ways of God impossible to live. Jesus was calling them “least” in

the Kingdom of God and told the people that their obedience to God had to surpass that of the teachers of their day!

A true bible teacher is not satisfied until those under their care are rightly dividing the Word of God and properly applying it to their daily lives.



CHARACTER STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF THE TEACHER

A Biblical Examination of the Gift and Office of the Teacher

INTRODUCTION

The office of the teacher is one of the five ministry gifts Christ gave to the Church to establish believers in sound doctrine and to bring them to spiritual maturity. Unlike the evangelist, whose emphasis is on conversion, or the prophet, whose emphasis is revelation, the teacher's primary calling is to explain, organize, defend, and apply God's truth so that God's people become firmly rooted in Christ.

The ministry of the teacher is absolutely essential in every generation **because spiritual deception flourishes wherever biblical instruction is neglected.**

Ephesians 4:11–13 (ESV)

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God."

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE TEACHER

The biblical teacher exists to:

- Explain Scripture accurately
- Guard sound doctrine
- Build spiritual maturity
- Develop spiritual discernment
- Establish believers in truth
- Equip others to obey God's Word

Teaching is far more than the transfer of information. Biblical teaching produces transformation. Jesus connected teaching directly with obedience.

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Notice that Christ did not merely command His disciples to communicate information. They were to teach believers to obey God's commands (or Commandments). True biblical teaching always aims at transformed lives rather than simply informed minds.

II. GREEK WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TEACHER

a. Didaskalos (διδάσκαλος)

Meaning:

- Teacher
- Instructor
- Master

Jesus is referred to by this title throughout the Gospels.

Examples:

- Matthew 8:19
- John 3:2
- John 13:13

Jesus is called "Teacher" more often than almost any other title.

b. Didaskō (διδάσκω)

Meaning:

- To teach
- To instruct
- To train
- To impart doctrine

This verb appears nearly one hundred times in the New Testament.

Biblical teaching always carries the idea of instruction that changes conduct.

c. Didachē (διδαχή)

Meaning:

- Doctrine
- Teaching
- Instruction

Examples:

- Acts 2:42
- Romans 6:17
- 2 John 1:9

The early Church devoted itself to the apostles' doctrine because sound doctrine produces spiritual stability.

III. THE CHARACTER OF A BIBLICAL TEACHER

A biblical teacher possesses more than knowledge.

Knowledge alone can produce pride, but biblical wisdom produces maturity. Godly teaching flows from transformed character.

a. **Loves God's Word**

Ezra provides one of Scripture's greatest examples.

Ezra 7:10 (ESV)

10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

Notice God's pattern:

- Study
- Practice
- Teach

Teachers never skip the middle step.

b. Personally Lives What He Teaches

Jesus condemned religious leaders who taught correctly but failed to practice what they preached.

Matthew 23:2–3 (ESV)

2 “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, **3** so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

Paul instructed Timothy:

1 Timothy 4:16 (ESV)

16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Character always precedes credibility.

c. Handles Scripture Carefully

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Teachers are responsible for accurately interpreting and communicating God's Word.

d. Humble

James reminds us of the seriousness of teaching.

James 3:1 (ESV)

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Teaching is a stewardship before God.

e. Patient

2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Spiritual growth takes time.

Teachers must be willing to repeat truth until it becomes established in the hearts of God's people.

f. Gentle

2 Timothy 2:24–25 (ESV)

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, **25** correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

The Lord's servant must be:

- Not quarrelsome
- Kind to everyone
- Able to teach
- Patient when wronged
- Correcting opponents with gentleness

Truth without love becomes harsh. Love without truth becomes compromised. Biblical teachers must possess both.

IV. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF TEACHERS

a. Jesus Christ: The perfect Teacher.

Characteristics:

- Explained Scripture
- Asked probing questions
- Used parables
- Corrected false traditions
- Applied truth practically

Matthew 7:28–29 (ESV)

28 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, **29** for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

The people marveled because He taught with authority.

b. Ezra

Characteristics:

- Studied God's Word
- Obeyed God's Word
- Taught God's Word

He remains the Old Testament model of the faithful teacher.

c. Apollos

Acts 18:24–28 (ESV)

24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. **25** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. **26** He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. **27** And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, **28** for he

powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Characteristics:

- Mighty in the Scriptures
- Eloquent
- Teachable
- Humble enough to receive correction
- Powerful defender of truth

Even gifted teachers must continue learning.

d. Paul

Paul became the greatest doctrinal teacher of the New Testament. His epistles continue to form the theological foundation of the Church.

e. Timothy

Paul repeatedly instructed Timothy concerning sound doctrine and faithful teaching.

Read:

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

These letters serve as an excellent handbook for teachers today.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEACHER

a. Teach Sound Doctrine

Titus 2:1 (ESV)

1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

Healthy doctrine produces healthy believers.

b. Protect the Church

Acts 20:28–31 (ESV)

28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. **29** I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. **31** Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Teachers recognize false doctrine before many others do and help guard the flock.

c. Equip Others

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Faithful teachers reproduce faithful teachers.

d. Explain Difficult Truth

Mark 4:34 (ESV)

34 He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Jesus explained privately what others did not understand.

e. Feed God's People

Believers require spiritual nourishment. Healthy sheep are fed with truth—not entertainment.

VI. SPIRITUAL STRENGTHS OF TEACHERS

Biblical teachers naturally develop:

- Careful Bible study
- Precision
- Discernment
- Organization
- Clarity
- Historical understanding
- Theological accuracy
- Biblical consistency
- Patience
- A deep love for truth

VII. COMMON WEAKNESSES

Every ministry office has potential blind spots.

a. Pride in Knowledge

1 Corinthians 8:1 (ESV)

1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.”

This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

b. Academic Without Spiritual Life

Knowledge must always lead to worship and obedience.

c. Lack of Practical Application

Teachers must show believers how to live biblical truth.

d. Critical Spirit

Discernment without grace can become fault-finding.

e. Dependence Upon Intellect

Biblical teachers must rely upon both diligent study and spiritual understanding that can only be given by the Holy Spirit.

VIII. FALSE TEACHERS

Scripture repeatedly warns about false teachers.

Characteristics include:

- Twisting Scripture
- Teaching for financial gain
- Seeking popularity
- Rejecting holiness
- Denying God's authority
- Appealing to fleshly desires

Key Scriptures:

2 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV)

Jude 1:4–16 (ESV)

1 Timothy 6:3–5 (ESV)

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (ESV)

IX. RELATIONSHIP TO THE OTHER FOUR MINISTRY OFFICES

The Apostle

Primary emphasis: Lays foundations, establishes churches, and provides governmental oversight.

The Prophet

Primary emphasis: Communicates God's heart, calls believers to repentance, and provides spiritual direction.

The Evangelist

Primary emphasis: Proclaims the Gospel and brings unbelievers to Christ.

The Pastor

Primary emphasis: Shepherds, nurtures, and protects the flock.

The Teacher

Primary emphasis: Grounds believers in sound doctrine and biblical understanding.

Healthy churches need all five ministry gifts functioning together.

X. THE FRUIT OF A TRUE TEACHER

Faithful biblical teaching produces believers who are:

- Spiritually mature
- Stable
- Discerning
- Biblically literate
- Obedient
- Grounded in truth
- Resistant to deception
- Able to disciple others

Ephesians 4:14–15 (ESV)

14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

XI. LESSONS FOR MODERN TEACHERS

Every biblical teacher should strive to:

- Study Scripture diligently before teaching others.
- Depend upon the Holy Spirit for spiritual understanding and guidance.
- Teach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).
- Lead by personal example.
- Make difficult doctrines understandable.
- Guard the Church against deception.
- Equip believers to become lifelong students of God's Word.
- Train others who can faithfully teach future generations.