

Seven Laws of the Teacher – Part 1: Teacher

Howard Hendricks

I. Introduction.

A. Teaching has degenerated into a ministry of mediocrity - especially with the Word of God.

B. The impact of teaching. (2 Timothy 2:2)

1. A ministry of multiplication.
2. Teaching impacts especially with the word of God.
3. Teaching launches a process that will hopefully never end.

C. Teaching the Word of God is the greatest fulfillment, unless there is something else that you would rather do.

II. The law of the teacher—if you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.

A. The teacher must know two things.

1. That which you would teach—content.
2. Those that you will teach—constituents.

III. Basic insights.

A. The teacher is primarily a student among students.

1. Teaching is an overflow.
2. Personal example of a teacher who never stopped studying—he would rather have his students drink from a living stream than a stagnant pool.
 - a. You cannot communicate out of a vacuum.
 - b. You cannot impart what you do not possess.
3. We are growing individuals—in both grace and truth. (1 Peter 2:18)

B. This involves an attitude. (Philippians 3:13-14)

1. Too many people are “sliding into home” unlike the apostle Paul; you can retire from a job, but never Christian ministry.
2. We have to always ask ourselves how we can improve.
3. Knowledge is proud; wisdom is humble.

C. Teaching involves a delicate relationship between what you teach and how you teach it.

1. Is your method keeping with the nature of your method?
2. The nature of the message determines the nature of the message.
 - a. Too many teachers paralyze their students with their method.
 - b. It is a crime to bore people with the Word of God.

IV. Implementation.

A. By a consistent study and reading program.

1. Readers are leaders, and leaders are readers.
2. You will be most influenced by the books that you read and the people that you meet.
 - a. The materials are available, but for the person who does not read, he is no better than the person who cannot read.
3. Enroll in courses that further your education.
4. Involve yourself in a personal study program.
 - a. Many that are under the Word of God, but are not in it themselves.
 - b. It is not until one is in the word that you see real change.

B. By getting to know your students.

1. You need to be an authority on the children you are teaching.
2. You need to become an authority on your student's specific needs.
 - a. Personal example of a teacher who positively encouraged his kids.
 - b. We too easily label our students.
 - c. Personal example of the negative example of speaker's teacher.

C. By intense personal evaluation.

1. Experience tends to make you worse unless it is evaluated experience.
2. What you are is more important than what you say. (Luke 6:40)
 - a. Your students will be like you.
 - b. We need God's grace to change our lives.

V. Conclusion.

- A. The invested interest of the speaker is not merely professional—it is personal.
- B. The example of Walt.
- C. If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.

Application questions:

1. The speaker says that one of the first responsibilities of a teacher is to be a continual student. How are you living the life of a student? How can you further cultivate a lifestyle of learning?

2. What are some proper attitudes that ought to be displayed towards students? What are some improper attitudes? Where can you grow in this area?

3. The speaker listed three areas of implementation. Which stood out to you the most? Why? What steps can you take to make these happen? What sacrifices will you have to make?
