

In Spirit and Truth – Teaching **II Tim. 4:1-2**

Thesis: To gain a better understanding of the responsibility that everyone has to teach the word of God.

Introduction:

Many times when we think of teaching in the Lord's church, we think only of public teaching. We think of preaching and teaching a Bible class. However, there are numerous ways in which we should be teaching.

**Notice in the outline the pronoun "We."

Teaching is something that we all should be doing.

While there are qualifications to teaching publicly in the assembly, there is no qualification or requirement for teaching in private or in the homes.

We should all be teachers!

I. We teach in public.

A. Jesus constantly taught the multitudes in public.

1. **Mt. 5:1-2** - And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. {2} Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
2. **Mk. 4:1-2** - And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. {2} Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

B. The early church also taught in public.

1. **Acts 2** - Peter and the apostles taught publicly on the Day of Pentecost.
2. **Acts 13:13ff** - Paul taught in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia.
3. **Acts 17:2** - It was the custom of Paul to go into the synagogue and teach the Jews of Christ.

C. Today, we also need to teach the word of God publicly.

1. The means that we use to teach publicly is the Bible Class and sermons.
2. God is specific as to what He wants us to teach.
 - a. **II Tim. 4:1-2** - I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: {2} Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
 - b. Marshall Keeble once said that this means that we teach them the word of God when they want to hear it and when they don't.
 - c. Our lessons are not meant to merely be good policy or pulling of the heart strings; they are to be the word of God.
3. There are also qualifications as to who can teach publicly.

- a. **I Tim. 2:12** - And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.
- b. It also stands to reason that if one is going to teach the word of God publicly, they should be a student of that word.
 - 1) **II Tim. 4:3-5** - Paul warns Timothy that false teachers are coming.
 - 2) **I Tim. 4:1-5** - Paul warns Timothy about false teachers that will come into the church.
 - 3) To preach the word you have to know the word.

II. We teach in private.

A. While there are qualifications as to who can teach publicly, we should **ALL** be teaching others privately.

1. Paul tells Timothy that every Christian should be teachers.
 - a. **II Tim. 2:2** - And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
 - 1) The word “men” in this passage is the Greek word “anthropos,” which means “mankind” (not of the male gender).
 - 2) Therefore, Timothy was to teach the things that Paul taught him to both men and women who would go on “to teach others also.”
 - b. **II Tim. 2:24-26** - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, {25} in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, {26} and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.
2. The command that Christ gave to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” is a command that all of us are to follow (both men and women – **Mk. 16:15**).

B. Jesus taught His disciples privately.

1. **Lk. 9:18-20** (Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ) - And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” {19} So they answered and said, “John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.” {20} He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.”
2. **Lk. 11:1** (Jesus teaches His disciples to pray) - Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

C. The apostles and early disciples also taught others privately.

1. **Acts 8:26-40** – Philip teaches the Ethiopian eunuch in a private setting.

2. Acts 10 – Peter preaches in the house of Cornelius.
3. Acts 18:26 (Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos) - When Aquila and Priscilla heard him [Apollos], they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
4. Acts 20:20-21 (Paul speaking with the elders of the church in Ephesus) - how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, {21} testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. In fact, it appears that the majority of the teaching done by the early church was done privately.

D. When it comes to teaching privately, there is a command for the older to teach the younger.

1. This is one great way that private teaching can be done.
2. Titus 2:4 - that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,
3. While the command is directly for the older women, the principle would also be true for the older men as well.

III. We teach in our home.

A. Notice the example of Israel.

1. Deut. 4:9-10 (Moses to Israel) - Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, {10} especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.”
2. Deut. 6:6-9 - And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. {7} You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. {8} You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. {9} You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
3. Deut. 6:20-25 - When your son asks you in time to come, saying, “What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?” {21} then you shall say to your son: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; {22} and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household. {23} Then He brought

us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers. {24} And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. {25} Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.”

4. **Deut. 11:18-21** - Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. {19} You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. {20} And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, {21} that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

5. Israel was commanded to teach their children the ways of the Lord.

B. Today, parents should teach their children in their own home.

1. It is a command from God to teach your children in your home.
 - a. **Pr. 22:6** - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
 - b. **Eph. 6:4** - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
 - c. **II Tim. 3:14-15** (example of Timothy) - But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, {15} and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - d. **Ps. 78:1-8** (A psalm of Asaph) - Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. {2} I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, {3} Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. {4} We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. {5} For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; {6} That the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, {7} That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; {8} And may not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not set its heart aright, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.
2. If parents do not teach their children the truths of God, then the child will follow after the world.

C. The absolute worst thing that a parent can do to their children is to not give them a foundation in the word of God.

1. Parents that do not teach their children the word of God are going to be held accountable of it in the Day of Judgment.
2. If the only Biblical instruction that a child gets is on Sunday and Wednesday, the parents need to take a long look at themselves because they are to blame.
3. The lessons that are taught in the pulpit should only be new to those outside the church.
 - a. Our children should already know the word of God from their homes.
 - b. I hope and pray for the day in which lessons that are delivered here are merely a review of the knowledge that you already have; not because the preaching is dull and simple, but because all of our parents have taught their children the word of God from their youth.

Conclusion:

Today, are **YOU** actively teaching the word of God to those in this world?