

UNDERSTANDING THE TEACHING

TEACHING (TRAINING AND CONTEXTUALISING)

This function is concerned with passing on wisdom and understanding. This involves bringing a comprehensive understanding of the revelation given to the church. It is a guiding and discerning function. The Biblical understanding of this function emphasises wisdom, not simply speculative philosophy. It involves integrating the intellectual and spiritual treasure of the community and encoding it, in order to pass it on to others and the coming generations.

THEOLOGICAL ROOTS IN GOD

Omniscient, prescient, truth, wisdom, beauty, Logos

The teaching aspects of God are seen in His wisdom, the fact that he is all-knowing, that he is the source of reason and revelation.

JESUS THE TEACHER

Jesus taught people wherever and whenever he could. He chose, instructed, and guided disciples, teaching them his Way and the ways of the God of Israel. He actually recast the Torah by fulfilling it. His teachings were accessible to the simplest and wisest alike. The medium of his life was its message: The Truth and Light. He is the *Greatest Teacher* ever.

Jesus is:

- The Logos
- Guide
- Wisdom of God
- Light
- Revelation of God

Jesus functioned in the teaching gift:

- Amazing the teachers in the temple with his learning (Luke 2:46-47)
- Teaching multitudes (Matt 5-7) and individuals (John 3 and 4)
- He makes disciples (Mark 4:10-20, 33-34; 7:17-23; 10:10-11, 23-31)
- He taught on a daily basis (Matthew 26:55)
- Others recognised Jesus as teacher (Mark 10:17, Matthew 22:16)

THE TEACHING GIFT IN THE CHURCH

The authentic TEACHING church is one where the knowledge of God is sought, treasured and shared. It is the gathering of wise and intelligent people that passionately seek truth and share all the treasures of the wisdom, insight, and knowledge of God hidden in Christ Jesus, faithfully nurturing understanding and communicating truth in the world. The desired social impact is of a wise community that loves God with mind, soul and strength - the Kingdom of Truth to a world that has no measure of absolute truth.

Teaching Functioning in the Early Church

- Peter and John (Acts 4:1-2)
- The apostles (Acts 5:21, 42)
- Paul (Acts 20:20)



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It is evident there were others teaching in the early church: Barnabas (Acts 15:35), Simeon and Lucius (Acts 13:1), Priscilla and Aquilla (Acts 18:24-26), Lois and Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5).

TEACHING				
Theological Roots (Teaching in the doctrine of God)	Archetypes and Heroes (Teaching patterns laced in and throughout creation)	Reconstituted Teaching (Redeemed and exemplified by Jesus)	Teaching Functions (Given to and coded into the church)	Teaching Callings (Individuals)
Omniscient Prescient Truth Beauty Wisdom Logos (Reason)	Sage Thinker Observer Philosopher Guide Scientist	Rabbi Logos The Truth The Way The Light of the world Our teacher/guide The Word made flesh God's wise judge Fulfilment of Torah The riches of knowledge & wisdom	Foster learning culture Develop resources for learning Articulate the theology/ideology for the group Provide instruction in the Way	Instructors Theologians Philosophers Guides Writers Thinkers Truth-tellers

SOURCE: Activating 5Q A Users' Guide, Alan Hirsch & Jessie Cruickshank

THE TEACHING GIFT AND THE INDIVIDUAL

In an individual, he or she is concerned with the holiness of God and his relational covenant with his people. The Prophet seeks integration between spiritual realities "as it is in heaven" and immediate need "as it is on earth." He or she is a questioner, freely disturbing the status quo and challenging individuals and organizations to move in a different direction.

The prophetic person is passionately concerned with living a life morally consistent with the covenant - a simple, authentic life of justice, holiness, and righteousness. They have a strong intuition of what is right and wrong, emphasising integrity, obedience and mystery. In terms of leadership style, the prophetic individual will be demonstrative and motivational.

TEACHING				
APEST Archetype	Hero-Expression in General Culture	Categories of Intelligence	Domains of Society	Universal Examples
Sage Thinker Observer Philosopher Guide Scientist	Philosophers Sages Instructors Ideologists Investigators Scientists Educationalists Mentors Thinkers Coaches Theoreticians Debaters Engineers Researchers Theologians Accountants	instructive rational knowledgeable reflective philosophical insightful analytical forensic past-oriented interpretive descriptive meaning-oriented critical	education science philosophy history publishing engineering	Socrates Plato Albert Einstein Hannah Arendt David Attenborough Helen Keller Alain de Botton Stephen Hawking

SOURCE: Activating 5Q A Users' Guide, Alan Hirsch & Jessie Cruickshank



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What does this mean for the individual?

- You have great faith in what you believe, explain these beliefs to others
- Your knowledge about what God calls us to do will encourage and assure people who naturally question or are indecisive
- Your encouragement and assurance lead others to confidence, faithfulness, obedience and influence.

How the teaching function might show up in the work place:

The teaching individual at work will be the person who develops resources, policies and programmes for continued learning and is committed to a strong means of knowledge transfer. They encourage active learning experiences, perhaps through case studies, role play and new practices. They work in a way that cultivates a culture of curiosity in themselves and among their co-workers. These are people who love insight and what that means in terms of the organisation and people. They are also the individuals that create a culture of organisational wisdom, departmental congruence and best practice. This is the Mentor, the Educator, the Thinker, the Philosopher, the Instructor

The teacher's authority doesn't come from how smart they are but from the Word of God. The **TEACHING** gift is complemented by the **PROPHETIC** which can help keep it in tune with God's heart and what He wants to say to His people. It is also complemented by **SHEPHERDING** in terms of ensuring the message builds up, encourages and supports.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- How can I serve in this calling in my small group, team, work place, the church?
- Are the people of God hearing his voice through what I am teaching?
- Am I spending enough time consistently engaging with God's word?
- To whom am I making myself accountable?

FURTHER READING

5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ (Paperback): Alan Hirsch

The Pulse of Christ: Nathan Brewer

