

## The Potholes of Teaching | a guide for teachers

1. **Losing Jesus** | Colossians 1:15-20. Beware of teaching everything besides Jesus. Salvation history begins and ends with Jesus. The Old Testament looks forward to Jesus. The New Testament testifies about Jesus. Now we wait for Jesus and live out the way of Jesus.
2. **Moralizing** | Psalms 14:1-3; Isaiah 64:6. We tend to moralize scripture and unconsciously turn it into a religious manual. We love take scripture and say "This is good – do this. This is bad – don't do this". Scripture loses its weight because it is turned into a manual of morality. And if anything, we wrongly teach to merely address the symptoms of sin rather than the heart of the problem. Actions are rarely what's wrong with the person...it usually stems from the heart. Walk patiently with all people and in love address the issues of the heart together. At the end understand that there is no one righteous – not you, not me...only Jesus. (see #5)
3. **Eisegesis** | 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Proverbs 14:12. Beware of forcing your own opinions & ideas into Scripture and making it fit. Beware of taking a "moral lesson" and using Scripture to conform to your agenda. This is typically called "Eisegesis" (ahy-suh-jee-sis). We want to do the work of "Exegesis" meaning to "draw out". Let the Scripture speak for themselves in its own context. Read the text for what it is and draw out the meaning that is in the text rather than manipulating it to say what you want it to say. You don't have the full story without both the good and bad parts. Make sure you're able to speak on both issues. (See #4)
4. **Elevation** | Matthew 23; John 5:39-40. A heart for Jesus without knowledge leads to false worship. You start to worship your own version of God. You really don't know all of who He is...just parts. It's like admiring the grass because it's blue. On the flipside, a mind for Jesus without the heart leads to arrogant jerks. Jesus warns over and over again that a heart for him is accompanied by a mind that knows him and vice versa. Scripture, then, is never an end in itself but it should always lead you to Jesus. The Gospel is never about following rules. It is a heart that understands and loves to delight in the statutes of the Lord.
5. **Ignoring the Gospel** | 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Psalms 51:17. The Good News has to do with the fact that we are completely and thoroughly sinners. Left to our own devices we would be as wicked and deplorable as the next person. The Good News has to do with the fact that we cannot get our hearts right even if we wanted to nor could we fix ourselves...we just tend to fall into the same holes we create. The Good News has to do with the fact that our past is wicked and we (and our posterity) suffer the consequences now. The Good News is that Jesus has come in the flesh as God, placed the wrath of God due us onto himself as our substitute, that he lived a perfect life, was brutally murdered and rose again. The Good News is that we are completely helpless but Jesus saves. He died for my sin past, present and future and allows me to chase ultimate joy. (See #1)

If we truly understand this, then this should be our foundation. At the end of the day this is what matters...so we don't argue about silly things, so don't lord our authority over others. Jesus never used his authority to beat up on people, rather he used all of his authority to shepherd his sheep, rebuke the swine, and shoot the wolves in love. As leaders we model after him – we understand that if it wasn't for the grace of God we would be outside of the kingdom. And so we lead them as redeemed sinners.