



Sermon Evaluation Form



CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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At Calvin Theological Seminary
and its Center for Excellence in Preaching,
we strive to teach students to write
and deliver sermons that are

Biblical, Authentic, Contextual, and Life-Changing.

This evaluation tool is designed to help you assess a
given sermon using these categories. This form is also
designed to be useful both for written sermons that an
evaluator reads and for sermons actually heard
in a worship service.

Ratings: 1=Excellent 2=Very Good 3=Good 4=Average 5=Poor

Student Name _____

Name of Church _____

Date _____

Sermon Title _____

Scripture passage _____

Thank you for your time and willingness to complete this form.
When finished please seal the booklet on all sides with a piece
of scotch tape. It is self-addressed to be returned to the
Ministry Formation Office at Calvin Theological Seminary.

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The Sermon

1. BIBLICAL

Because God's Word lies at the center of all preaching, sermons should demonstrate that the Bible (and the specific portion of Scripture on which the sermon was based) determined the main message of the sermon. What's more, if Scripture truly is *God's* revelation, then the sermon should reveal God's active presence (and above all his saving grace) in any given passage as well as throughout the whole of Scripture. With this in mind, please evaluate this particular sermon:

1=Excellent 2=Very Good 3=Good 4=Average 5=Poor

- The sermon content was derived from Scripture:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon helped you understand the text better:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon revealed how God is at work in the text:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon displayed the grace of God in Scripture:
 1 2 3 4 5
- Please state the main point of the specific biblical text as this sermon presented it:

The Sermon

2. AUTHENTIC

All Christians have, and so should display, union with Christ. But preachers in particular should exhibit their own commitment to the faith and to the Savior at that faith's core. Preachers should show that they are convicted by the truths they preach, that they are committed to living out this message in their own lives, and that they are pastorally sensitive to (and are honest about) the challenges that face believers in living out the Christian faith. With this in mind, please evaluate this particular sermon:

1=Excellent 2=Very Good 3=Good 4=Average 5=Poor

- The preacher displayed passion and enthusiasm for the message:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The preacher's demeanor showed conviction:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The preacher displayed honesty/integrity in applying the message:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The preacher showed pastoral sensitivity in the sermon:
 1 2 3 4 5
- Please comment briefly on anything the preacher did that revealed his/her passion for the text/sermon or anything that detracted from your sense that the preacher was committed to the message of the sermon:

The Sermon

3. CONTEXTUAL

The *content* of every sermon comes from God's unchanging Word in Scripture. But the *context* in which that Word must be applied is always changing. Preachers must demonstrate an awareness of the culture, the issues of the day, and the particulars of a given congregation (if the preacher is in a position to be familiar with the congregation). With this in mind, please evaluate this particular sermon:

1=Excellent 2=Very Good 3=Good 4=Average 5=Poor

- The sermon made a connection between the biblical world and our current situation:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon showed an awareness of contemporary issues:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon was delivered in language that fits our contemporary world and that was, therefore, communicationally effective:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon revealed God's active presence and grace in our world today and in the situations people face today:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon was communicated effectively through compelling use of illustrations and examples:
 1 2 3 4 5
- Please state briefly an example or two of how this sermon demonstrated that it was written for this current time and place. If the sermon failed to be relevant, state briefly why:

The Sermon

4. LIFE-CHANGING

The Apostle Paul declared that he was not ashamed of the gospel because it is nothing less than the very “power of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16). The result of presenting that powerful gospel should be changed lives. Those outside of the faith should feel joyfully called to believe in Jesus as Lord. Longtime believers should feel energized for service and bolstered in their hope and joy. With this in mind, please evaluate this particular sermon:

1=Excellent 2=Very Good 3=Good 4=Average 5=Poor

- Through the sermon God reminded you of grace:
 1 2 3 4 5
- Through this sermon God created, or strengthened, the hope that God is actively at work in our lives every day:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon suggested specific ways to look for and see God’s work in our world and even in our struggles:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon provided practical examples/advice:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon communicated God’s grace in a way that could reach out to unbelievers or those unfamiliar with the Christian faith:
 1 2 3 4 5
- Please state briefly how this sermon showed the preacher’s desire that the message would affect people’s real lives by giving hope and direction. By listening to the sermon, could you sense God’s Spirit challenging you to new obedience, strengthening your commitment to serve Jesus as your Lord? If the sermon seemed weak in this regard, please state why:

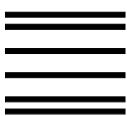
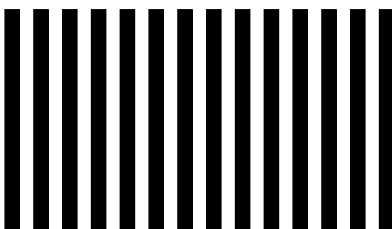
The Worship Service and Sermon Delivery

Please evaluate the preacher in the following areas related to the actual leading of the worship service and delivery of the sermon (if the evaluator was asked to read a sermon but was not present when it was delivered, this portion may be skipped):

1=Excellent 2=Very Good 3=Good 4=Average 5=Poor

- The preacher led the service confidently and pastorally:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The preacher was organized and so helped the service to flow smoothly and without distractions:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The worship service was unified with appropriate selection of songs/hymns, litanies, and other readings:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The prayers demonstrated pastoral sensitivity and a good balance among thanksgiving, petition, lament, and praise:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The preacher made good eye contact throughout the service and made use of appropriate facial expressions and gestures:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The preacher used a variety of voice tones and varied the speed of his/her speech in the sermon:
 1 2 3 4 5
- The sermon displayed a structure that was easy to follow (that is, it had a recognizable beginning, middle, and end):
 1 2 3 4 5
- Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the preacher's leading of the overall service. What was done particularly well? What could be done differently to improve the service's unity and flow?

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