

## Christian Writing: The Blessing of Simplicity

*To point out the advantages of communicating in a way that will help the reader understand as much as possible*

1) Jesus taught with humility and gentleness of heart *Matthew 11<sup>29</sup> 2Corinthians 4<sup>7</sup> Galatians 6<sup>1</sup> Mark 1<sup>22</sup>*

a. Writing with humility is to have a modest estimate of one's own worth

i. There is no revelation and experience you have that you have not received

- You are only a vessel
- You are merely a steward

✓ *How does a steward shows humility?*

ii. You are not necessarily better than your readers are

- Even in corrective writing, you are susceptible too

✓ *What are the indicators of a superiority complex?*

iii. Authoritative writing is different from arrogance

- Jesus taught with authority but was not arrogant

✓ *How would you differentiate between authoritative expression and arrogance?*



b. Writing with gentleness of heart is to be pleasant without extremes

i. Not forceful in presentation

ii. Not harsh in choice of words

iii. Not irritating in approach

iv. Themed to edify

✓ What could warrant ungentle writings?



✓ How can you be gentle with the truth?



2) Paul's presentations were clear 1 Corinthians 1<sup>17</sup>

a. Not primarily scholastic presentations

b. Not using big words

c. Not trying to impress

d. Not playing with words

✓ What should influence the choice of words and presentation?

3) A writing that is not simple

- a. Puts off your readers
- b. Ensnare you, the writer
- c. Takes attention away from the message
  - i. To the messenger
  - ii. To the manner of presentation
- d. Deprives the cross of its power

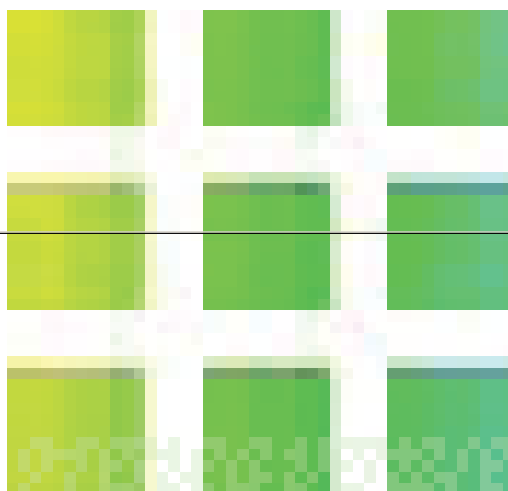
✓ How is the cross deprived of its power?

4) Simple writing

- a. Promotes the message and not the messenger
- b. Makes you an effective communicator
- c. Allows the power of the cross to be effective
- d. Opens the writer to more grace in writing

✓ How do you respond to writings that are simple?

✓ How do you respond to writings that are not simple?



*For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News--and not with clever speeches and high-sounding ideas, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.*

1 Corinthians 1:17 NLT

*Christ did not send me to baptize. He sent me to tell the good news without using big words that would make the cross of Christ lose its power.*

1 Corinthians 1:17 CEV