

**Main Street Baptist Church  
Ministry of Christian Education  
Criteria for Teaching**

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One of the greatest callings and highest responsibility in Scripture is for those who teach God's Word to disciple believers and equip saints for the work of the ministry.

**Purpose:** To affirm spiritually-gifted teachers and progressively develop those who show evidence of being Spirit-dependent who are committed to diligently studying, rightly handling, and holistically applying God's Word to their own life as they learn, model, and teach spiritual transformation into Christlikeness through a Biblical teaching-learning process.

**Biblical Basis:**

"For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel." (Ezra 7:10)

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." (Luke 6:40)

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

"Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness." (James 3:1)

**Attitude and Criteria for a Teacher:**

- A teacher is one who displays an attitude of a learner, being directed in the way of the Lord. (Psalm 32:8; cf. John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38)
- A teacher exhibits a love for those he/she teaches displayed by care and compassion. (Mark 6:34; Colossians 3:12-17)

- A teacher is one who has an inner conviction toward God's transforming work and the Holy Spirit's power to develop His people into mature followers of Christ (Colossians 1:28-29)
- A teacher has a heart desire to see Christ formed in everyone who is taught. (Galatians 4:19)
- A teacher is one who recognizes his/her life to be continually and progressively above reproach, exemplified by Christlike character, communication, and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:10-11)
- A teacher's lifestyle exhibits growth toward "walking in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him," and is consistent with his/her teaching both formally and informally. (Colossians 1:10-12)
- A teacher is considered by the Church family one who is "an example of the believer in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity", not puffed up with knowledge but able to edify through love. (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Cor. 8:1)
- A teacher is one who is humble in spirit recognizing that the ultimate power, authority, and results of teaching come from God. (Romans 12:3; Philippians 2:1-5)
- A teacher is one who diligently studies and relies on the Holy Spirit as the discernor and teacher of spiritual truth, illuminating God's Word, and providing grace to teach. (1 Corinthians 2:10-16)
- A teacher is one who is open to teaching with other approved teachers when applicable. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

### Preparation and Delivery of the Teacher:

A new prospective teacher will . . .

- demonstrate appropriate preparation in three areas:
  - First, through a personal learning-encounter with the Lord.
  - Second, to begin to embed the lesson into his or her personal life.
  - Third, exemplify the lesson to the participants for them to integrate into their lives.
- become familiar with the developmental characteristics of the age group being taught, as well as a sense of their spiritual condition.

- exemplify a teachable spirit when receiving the minimum of two observations with feedback to discuss the planning, preparation, and presentation of the assigned content.
- always maintain the centrality of Scripture over the curriculum as the final source of authority.
- learn how to select the appropriate teaching method(s) through a diverse variety of delivery methods for the recipients (Example: Jesus' variety of teaching methods).

### Selection Process of a Teacher:

A teacher candidate is one who is . . .

- a member in good standing at Main Street Baptist Church.
- a member for no less than six months.
- committed to the duration and longevity of the assigned series.
- expected to attend a teacher orientation.
- willing to undergo a background check if working with children.
- approved by the Education Team and submitted to the Elders.

Final confirmation to teach is affirmed by the Elders.

To receive final affirmation by the Elders, prospective teachers must be in substantial agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message (2000) and the Second London Baptist Confession (1689) as determined by the Elders, and they must agree not to affirm doctrines that are contrary to these confessions when teaching.

Special Note: Those who are interested in teaching but have no teaching experience and believe they are spiritually-gifted to teach, will have opportunity to participate in a teacher orientation, practical mentorship, and teacher shadowing while working through the Criteria for Teaching.