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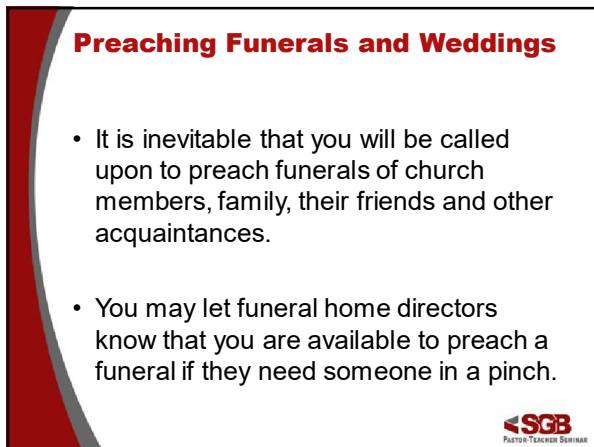
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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- Before the Funeral Service
  - Be prepared and ready to be called after a death. The pastor is often the first person contacted.
  - Be prepared to visit the family as quickly as possible. They will need your encouragement and comfort.
  - You (and your wife) may consider personally sending some food as a gift.
  - Find out the details from the “point person” in the family.



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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- A general order of service
  - Song
  - Prayer
  - Scripture Reading (usually consolation verses)
  - Read Obituary/Eulogy
  - Song
  - Funeral sermon (15 minutes or less)
  - Prayer and dismissal



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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- The Funeral Service
  - Tell the family and funeral director when you will arrive prior to the service
    - I generally arrive 45 minutes prior
  - Read the obituary and relay some observations about the deceased, if possible
    - Include these in your outline
  - Preach a short, pointed Gospel message
    - It should be easily understood
    - My funeral sermons are around 15 minutes



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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- The Funeral Service (continued)
  - The entirety of my funeral service is normally 25-35 minutes
    - Much can be said if you stay focused
  - Close in prayer and take your place at the head of the casket
  - At graveside, read a passage of Scripture
    - I suggest 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 or 1 Corinthians 15:51-58
  - Offer a brief prayer and dismiss



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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- The Funeral Service (continued)
  - If there is a meal offered by the church, make plans to attend
  - You should make yourself available if anyone wants to talk, has questions or needs counsel



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**Weddings**

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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- Weddings—General Observations
  - There are times when someone asks you to marry them and you have personal or doctrinal convictions that will not allow you to say yes. Simply tell the couple the truth and explain why you don't feel you are the man for the job. Don't get argumentative, but ask them to respect your position. Do it with a good attitude, not a condescending one.



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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- Weddings—General Observations
  - Pulpit ministry should include messages on the sanctity of marriage, the roles of husbands and wives, and other subjects relating to marriage and the home
  - You may need to establish order at the wedding rehearsal
    - Rehearsals can be very chaotic and unorganized
  - Write out the order of service so everybody is on the same page



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**Preaching Funerals and Weddings**

- Weddings—General Observations
  - Arrive an hour early on the wedding day
    - Punctuality eases tension
  - Make sure the bride and groom have their wedding license
    - You will need to fill out your part after the ceremony
    - This must be filed quickly, though the time can vary from state to state
    - If you preach out of state, determine what the state requires as it can vary from state to state



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## Preaching Funerals and Weddings

- The Wedding Ceremony
  - Preach the Gospel
    - I have a part in the ceremony where I identify Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Life—I usually elaborate some on that. Ephesians 5 is very suitable in a wedding relative to Jesus sacrificing Himself for us.
  - See templates



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