

Being a [high] quality lecturer

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Why does this matter?

- The Bible says, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor 10:31).” Lecturing is one of those things we do, and so we must do it with excellence.
- Students learn more from what they see in us than from what they hear from us: “Your life is so loud, I cannot hear what you are saying.”
- We are impacting lives that will impact many other lives. So, we need to pass on the sense that high quality really matters by our own example. God will judge us for the sins of our students if we caused the mediocrity in his church.



Spiritually (Acts 2:37–42)

- Ensure that you have truly experienced the grace of God in salvation. This is when you can truly represent him to students and staff. Testify to this issue of sin and grace.
- Ensure that you have a healthy walk with God on a daily basis. Salvation is ultimately entering into an ongoing personal relationship with God and his people. Allow this to come through your interaction with students and staff.
- Ensure that you are actively involved in a local church. It is the only institution that Jesus ordained. You are preparing students to serve there in various ways. Your involvement is the life shouting louder than your words.



Academically (2 Tim. 2:2)

- Ensure that you yourself are trained by a high quality institution. Remember, it is “rubbish in, rubbish out.”
- Be a life-long student, always improving on your own knowledge through books, seminars and journals in your field. Aim to be the best that you can be.
- Be a student of teaching methodology—and technology! Teaching is both a science and an art. Learn from others who seem to deliver with maximum results.
- Start by knowing where your students are in knowledge and ability to comprehend. Never assume this.
- Encourage hard work by exhorting, rewarding, and punishing.



Socially (1 Cor. 9:19–23)

- Be a people's person. Work hard at knowing the names and circumstances of those you work with and of your students.
- Practically love your fellow lecturers, other members of staff, and especially your students. For some it will be easier than others.
- Be humble, submissive, and cooperative. Do not let bad attitudes and actions drive a wedge between you and them (Rom.12:18).
- You will wrong other members of staff and your students. You are human. Apologise to them and ask for their forgiveness.
- Relate to the culture of the people among whom you draw your students. Illustrate your lectures with illustrations that connect.



Conclusion

- Let me emphasise that the areas I have dealt with are integrated.
- I was supposed to end by addressing how to grow in each of these areas but I knew I would not have the time.
- Therefore, I deliberately included this as I dealt with each of the three areas above.
- May I add self discipline (or self-control, as the Bible calls it)? This must be applied to the spiritual, academic and social the areas.
- Let us remember why being a quality leader is so important: The glory of God, the impact on students and the future of the church and the world, and the judgement we will undergo in the end by God himself.
- It is worth the effort!

