



The “Problem-Solution-Application” Sermon Structure

A sermon structured this way communicates

- 1) a problem that the text either states or implies,
- 2) a solution that the text either states or implies,
- 3) what the problem and solution mean for life today.



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The Problem

1. Often the text will present a *problem*, but sometimes you will need to think of this as a *concern*, an *issue*, or an *historical situation*.
2. Spend time with the text in order to be historically and exegetically accurate of the problem, even more so when it is implied rather than explicit.
3. “Principlize” the original, historical problem. This becomes the “proposition” that communicates the substance of the “problem” to your listeners.



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The Solution

1. Often the text will present a solution to the problem. This might take the form of a command, exhortation, or injunction. At times, though, you will need to think of the “solution” as a perspective on an issue, and not what we would commonly think of as a “solution.”
2. Spend time with the text in order to be historically and exegetically accurate of the solution, even more so when it is implied rather than explicit.
3. “Principlize” the original, historical solution. This becomes the “proposition” that communicates the substance of the “solution” to your listeners.

NOTE: Passages often state both the problem and the solution. Some texts (especially the Proverbs), however, state one and imply the other.



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The Application

1. Restate the “principlized” forms of the problem and solution.
2. Answer the question, “What would this look like in today’s world?”
3. Choose several imperative propositions that *impart biblical-life-principles* for your listeners to use when they face this particular problem-solution in their own unique worlds.
4. Remember at this point to focus on the *purpose* and the *life-change goal* of your sermon.