

## Deep Preaching

### Toward an Integrative Model for Third-Way Preachers

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Implicit in the idea of a “third-way” for preaching and theology is the sense that integration is possible. Jim Belcher presents “Deep Preaching” as the integration of a concern both for the objective demand of the text and an interest in allowing the community to have a place in this most significant act of communication.

This approach dovetails nicely with my own work over the years. In *Choosing to Preach*, I offered an “integrative model” for preaching that seeks to integrate Belcher’s concern for the objective and subjective, but also the perennial concern around head and heart.

Gridding these concerns, creates an integrative “third-way” model that offers four *modes* by which the preacher can communicate, and four *elements* that describe effectiveness in preaching. It is my contention that the best preaching would integrate all of these, whether *consecutively* or *concurrently*.

Effective preachers will preach, then, in the mode of...

- ...the moviemaker;
- ...the lawyer;
- ...the detective;
- ...the artist.

Such preachers will make sure to address the four essential elements of preaching...

- ...engagement;
- ...information;
- ...exposition;
- ...inspiration.

Through this means, the preacher will follow the model of Jesus who effectively integrated both word/flesh and grace/truth. We should do no less.