

maximized and boredom, disinterest, resistance, and hostility are minimized.

This goal implies several ideas:

- (1) visiting speakers should take care to maintain variety in their use of volume, pitch, speed, pause, and gesture. This means that habitual patterns of ineffective communication must be detected, admitted as fact, and modified.
- (2) Visiting speakers should not scold, yell at, or make derogatory remarks about their audience. Remember: the preacher does not stand in an adversary relationship to his audience. THE AUDIENCE IS NOT THE ENEMY!
- (3) Visiting speakers should not point their finger at the audience and say "you!" "you!" "you!", without including themselves in their accusatory questions, exhortations, and applications.
- (4) Visiting speakers should take care to address their audiences in a warm, winsome, friendly, self-inclusive, humble, pastoral tone.

When I preached my first sermon, I was so taken up with my own fears and self-consciousness, that I could hardly think of the content of my message. (Actually that didn't matter very much, since I was using some material about "The Tripartite Nature of Man"!) To help me get out of myself and over my fears, my girlfriend's father suggested that I think of the people in the audience as rows of cabbage heads! And it really seemed to help!

Later I moved from thinking of my audience as cabbage heads to viewing them as generally hostile, and I was determined to convert 'em or straighten 'em out! I'm not sure that this approach was any better than the cabbage head ploy! More exciting, perhaps, but not significantly better.