

**William Ames, *Marrow of Sacred Divinity***

**I.xxxv: Of Ordinary Ministers and Their Office in Preaching**

**Formal Cause of Ordinary Ministry**

1. Ordinary ministry = takes all direction from will of God and means in church
2. Ordinary = according to God's established order
3. Bound by Scripture, because God's will revealed by extraordinary ministers
4. In essential service, successors of extraordinary ministers

**Efficient Cause of Ordinary Ministry**

5. The right to this ministry mediated through men
6. Appointment by church, authority direct from God
7. Necessary gift a prerequisite, so church must choose those suitable
8. Lawful examination should precede calling

**Final Cause of Ordinary Ministry**

9. Ordinary ministry "to preserve, propagate and renew the church through regular means"
10. Two parts: a) acts for people in name of God; b) for God in name of people

**Material Cause of Ordinary Ministry**

11. Preaching "of utmost importance"
12. Preaching sets forth will of God from word for edification
13. Minister must teach himself
14. Edification specific to "each status and age"
15. Aim of edification avoids speculation and quarrelling
16. Minister must be Bible expert – no "trust in notes and commentaries"
17. Edification needs two things: a) explanation; b) application
- [18. Sermon should explain content of text, not other texts]
19. a) = doctrines and proofs; b) = application and profit
- [20. For edification's sake, don't confuse a) and b)]
- Explanation*
21. Doctrine = "theological principle" in Scripture words or direct consequence
22. Doctrine must be i) discovered; ii) discussed
23. Discovery by logical analysis, using rhetoric and grammar
24. Analysis = scope/purpose of text; logic by which attained
25. Interpret doubtful parts
26. Discussion by i) proof; ii) illustration
27. Proofs from clearer texts and reason (adapt to hearers)
28. Illustrations from anywhere; compare and contrast best

*Application*

29. Application more important, because achieves edification

- [30. Explanation without application = sin!]
- 31. Don't say every doctrine and use, just most necessary for hearers now
- [32. Don't say what's not there]
- 33. Show connections between doctrine and use
- 34. Use = principle derived from doctrine showing its end
  - 35. Logic of deduction should be explained (+ proof and illustration)
  - 36. Use either i) judgement; ii) practice
    - 37. Judgement – “information and reformation of mind”
    - 38. Info – proving truth
    - 39. Reformation – refuting error
    - 40. Truth always useful; don't refute dead heresy
  - 41. Direction in practice is i) instruction; ii) correction
    - 42. Instruction: life to follow
    - 43. Correction: life to shun
- 44. Application and use often the same
  - 45. To apply doctrine to use is to “make specially relevant” to stir affections
  - 46. Preaching should be alive
  - 47. Application is i) consolation; ii) exhortation/admonition
    - 48. Consolation = application to mitigate grief and fear
      - 49. Assurance of benefits, contrary thoughts dispelled
    - 50. Exhortation = application to quicken virtue and exercise
      - 51. Show means of begetting virtue
    - 52. Admonition = application to correct viciousness
      - 53. Remedies from texts

#### *Delivery*

- 54. No human wisdom or carnal affections, all Spirit power
  - 55. So, no human authority, learned stories, foreign languages
    - 56. 55 damages both perfection of Scripture and softness of hearers
    - 57. Paul doesn't
  - 58. Simple intro, no digressions
    - 59. Intro should announce text or apply to use
- 60. Speech and action spiritual
- 61. Pronunciation “natural, familiar, clear and distinct”
  - 62. Heavy, slow, drowsy voice bad
  - 63. Hasty, swift voice bad
- 64. Speak and act as if in law court
- 65. Power of Spirit in “naked simplicity of words”
- 66. Affectation and efficacy inversely proportional
- 67. Everything for edification
- 68. Pray before and after
  - 69. Prayer before: remember purpose of preaching, needs, gracious promises
  - 70. Prayer after: Thanksgiving, turn headings of sermon into petition.