

Chapter 10 Discussion Questions

In Chapter 10, Scott Mehl continues his discussion on speaking the truth begun in Chapter 9. In Chapter 9, Mehl focused on giving hope while we speak; in chapter 10, Mehl focuses on affirming, correcting and teaching.

1. Mehl writes “Biblical affirmation is the recognition of gifts, strengths, and growth in a person’s life in order to promote God esteem” (pp.136-137). What stands out to you about this definition?
2. If you have become convinced by this chapter that you should cultivate the skill of affirmation, what was compelling to you?
3. What are some of the challenges you personally face in giving affirmation? What are some of the challenges you face in receiving affirmation?
4. Mehl summarizes four of Crabtree’s characteristics of good affirmation (pp.138-139). Which characteristic do you need to work on most?
5. What are some of the challenges in correcting well?
6. What is the value of correcting well?
7. How has this chapter convinced you to be more active in correcting?
8. Mehl describes four “tactics” to use in correcting. Which have you responded to well in the past? Which would you be most likely to try?
9. On page 143, Mehl writes, “The vast majority of teaching in the local church takes place in the interpersonal relationships of Gospel care.” Is that the way you think about teaching? Why or why not?
10. Most Christians know there is value to teaching theology, but some may dismiss teaching practical wisdom. Are both valuable? How should teaching wisdom be different from teaching theology?
11. Mehl defines teaching theology as “simply the act of imparting what you know about God (who he is, what he’s like, what he’s done, what he’s promised) to someone else.” Why should you be excited to teach theology?