

1. Why should one want to accept a public role in the assembly?

To edify the church (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1st Corinthians 14:1-5, 12, 17, 26).

2. What consideration should be given to appearance when leading in worship?

1) Facial hair is irrelevant (Psalm 133:2).

2) Piercings are irrelevant to God (Exodus 32:2; 35:22). They could, potentially, distract brothers and sisters, however.

3) Hats are inappropriate (1st Corinthians 11:4, 7).

4) Dress in a way which reflects the reverence of the occasion (Hebrews 12:28). There is no specific dress code, but if we would present ourselves one way at weddings (Jeremiah 2:32; Matthew 22:11-12) and funerals (Genesis 38:19; 2nd Samuel 14:2) because of the dignity of those events, but not in the same way while doing manual labor (John 21:3, 7), then let's not forget that basic awareness when gathering to honor the memory of Christ's death (1st Corinthians 10:16-17; Matthew 26:26-28). While we will not assume the worst about someone else who is dressed down (James 2:1-4), we must still offer God our own best (2nd Samuel 24:24).

3. Is eloquence necessary in order to stand before the congregation?

No (1st Corinthians 2:1-6; 2nd Corinthians 10:10; Exodus 4:10), but it's not out of place either (Acts 14:11-12).

Plain, unadorned speech is totally acceptable, but it would help to eliminate bad speaking habits, which only hinder communication. For instance, verbal pauses, like "Uh" should be avoided. Rote phrases that add no value, such as "We've come to that portion of our service", can be dispensed with.

4. How should one speak before the congregation?

1) Loud enough to be heard in the foyer.

- 2) Slow enough that everyone can understand. If you're nervous, you want it over with, but folks need to comprehend.
 - 3) Clear enough that your words are distinct; muttering is unhelpful.
 - 4) Pronouncing names correctly is important, more so in the announcements and prayers than anything else.
5. Did God ever call any to speak who were reluctant to do so?
 - 1) Moses (Exodus 4:10-12).
 - 2) Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:6-8).
6. What should be done about stage fright?
 - 1) Do what must be done, regardless of your fear. That's how Paul managed. *"I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling"* (1st Corinthians 2:3).
 - 2) Know that fear is not the condition God desires for you to remain in. *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (2nd Timothy 1:7).
 - 3) Pray to overcome your fear. *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:6-7).
7. How should a dry mouth be dealt with?
 - 1) Sip water.
 - 2) Swallow.
 - 3) Do not clear your throat. That will make the situation worse. It will also be more distracting to the hearers.
8. What does Scripture teach about preparedness?

"Be ready for every good work" (Titus 3:1).

"Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10).

"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Then Peter said to Him, 'Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?'

And the Lord said, 'Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, "My master is delaying his coming," and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes'" (Luke 12:35-47).

9. Does it matter where a speaker positions himself?

Practically, it is most reasonable to stand in front of the congregation, which is exemplified for us by Ezra (Nehemiah 8:1-3). This allows all to see the speaker. It allows his voice to carry throughout the room. The assembly can see his lips move and match his words to what they're seeing, which improves comprehension. Also, it emphasizes the authority of the speaker, whereas sitting in a circle could be more conversational and appropriate for classes and discussions, but in assemblies in which one man at a time must speak, it helps to maintain order.

Standing from an elevated position is often helpful, as well (4), although less important with fewer in the audience.