



30 January 2026

LEARNING

Fly fishing caught my interest a number of times, but I've never tried it. I have fished in lakes, rivers and the ocean, but never got around to learning how to fly fish.

One writer tells us about one time he went fly fishing on his favorite river. He worked some of his favorite spots. No luck.

As he worked his way down stream he noticed an old man who was just starting to fish. The man looked decrepit, and his clothing and fly rod looked even worse. The old man worked his way up stream, trying some of the same spots our unsuccessful fisherman had tried. He put his fly out over some pockets the writer had missed, and was catching trout!

As he watched the old man he thought, "Here is a man who could teach me a thing or two!"

Have you ever been surprised by learning something from someone you didn't expect could teach you "a thing or two"? I suspect we have been there. Sometimes it may come from assuming a person couldn't teach you something. The old saying, "when you assume just assume you are wrong" comes into play here. At other times it may be we simply weren't looking to learn from that person, or even anyone.

One facet of the beauty of Christ's design for His church is that we all are connected as part of His church, His body. As the apostle Paul wrote about the body of Christ, the church,

"just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12).

He goes on to tell us that just as our physical bodies need all the parts, so does the church. We all need the other parts, each other. God, Paul tells us,

"has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body just as He desired" (v. 18)

All of us should be learning from each other, and also teaching each other. "What?", you may say. "I don't know that much, and I'm not a teacher. I don't have the ability, that's not my gift."



God has gifted some people to teach His truth. There is the spiritual ability or gift of teaching. We have offices in the church of those who teach. But your view of teaching and learning is much too limited if you think that's all there is in teaching and learning.

I have learned some very valuable lessons from people who never have taken on the role of teaching a group, let alone preaching. Paul told the church at Colossae,

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (3:16).

You see, it is not just a matter of giving out or taking in information in a session. We teach and learn when we spend time with each other, when we worship together, when we talk and listen. We could borrow from educators, and in one sense use the phrase *collaborative learning* to describe this.

In fact, very often people teach and others learn through doing. I imagine I could read some instructions about how to fly fish, and someone could talk me through it. But the best way to learn how to do it is to observe someone doing it.

Let me suggest you take up a challenge I gave myself years ago, to actively, purposefully look for what you can learn from all the people you know, talk with, spend time with. If you do, as you do, you *will* “learn a thing or two.” As well then, in doing that you also will be teaching them.

Pastor Lyle