
Sharing the Gospel

~~What is the Gospel?~~

The Gospel (Good News) is the answer to the bad news that every person has rebelled against God and His authority. This rebellion is called sin, and its consequences are physical and spiritual death because of God's justifiable wrath.

Summarized in Four Truths – truth about God, sin, Jesus Christ, and man's response!

(1) The Truth about God

God is the holy Creator with all authority over His creation (Genesis 1:1)

- We owe our very existence to Him (Acts 17:25)
- We are always in His hands and under His watchful eye (Psalm 139:7-12)
- We were created by Him to worship Him and serve Him (Matthew 4:10)
- We are to live for His glory (Romans 11:36)

Truth: We are absolutely dependent upon God who, as our holy Creator, has an absolute claim on us.

(2) The Truth about Sin

- Sin is an offense against God and separates us from Him. (Isaiah 59:1-2).
- We feel guilty for specific wrong things done or good things left undone (Psalms 32:1-5, 38:4).
- All people have sinned by falling short of God's standard (Romans 3:23).
- All people have sinned by rebelling against God's specific commands and authority (Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 22:37-40).
- All people need to be made right with God. All are guilty, helpless in sin, and are under God's wrath (Romans 1:18; 3:10-12).
- We are basically bad, and that is what makes us do bad things or fail to do good things (Romans 7:18).
- Nothing we do can bring us into God's favor (Romans 3:20).

Truth: Our sin separates (alienates) us from God and we need to be reconciled to Him.

(3) The Truth about Jesus Christ

His Incarnation

- Jesus of Nazareth is God the Son who was made man to save sinners according to His Father's eternal purpose (John 1:14; Colossians 1:19). Jesus Christ's words and life reveal the nature of God. Jesus Christ lived a life of perfect obedience to God.

His Death

- He lived as a man in order to die for men. Jesus took the guilt of sinners upon Himself and endured God's judgment for it in His death on the cross. His death satisfied God's just anger against sinful, rebellious people. His suffering and death was His saving action of bearing away the world's sins (John 1:29, 36; Hebrews 9:27-28).

His Resurrection

- Jesus has been raised from the dead (Acts 2:24), proving that He conquered sin and death and vindicating His life of perfect obedience.

His Exaltation

- Jesus ascended back to the right hand of God where He is enthroned and reigns as King or Lord of all (Hebrews 1:3, Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-21). He freely and sovereignly gives His righteousness to undeserving sinners who receive Him as their Savior and acknowledge Him as their Lord. He lives to save completely all who acknowledge Him as Lord (Hebrews 7:25).

Truth: Jesus Christ has provided the only way for sinful man to be made right with his Creator God.

(4) The Truth about Man's Reasonable Response

God's sovereignty in salvation does not negate man's responsibility.

- Faith (belief, trust)
A response of faith is resting one's confidence on the promises of mercy that Christ has given to sinners—forgiveness of sin and hope of a new life that pleases God (Romans 12:1; Titus 3:4-7). Faith is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).
- Repentance
Repentance is the evidence of true faith.
Repentance is a change of mind and heart evidenced by a change in behavior—a new life of denying self and serving the Savior as King (Romans 12:2; Titus 3:8).

Truth: The only reasonable response to what has been done through Christ is twofold: Faith in Christ and Repentance.

Appropriate questions to ask:

- On the basis of these truths about God, sin, Jesus—what is your relationship to God?
 - Do you have a desire to accept Jesus as your Savior?
 - In light of this truth—what is your response to God?
 - Would you like to go to church with me this weekend?
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What is our Motivation for Sharing the Gospel?

- (1) Love for God and desire to glorify Him (Matthew 22:37; John 14:15, 21)
 - We love God when we are grateful for His saving grace in our lives (1 John 4:19)
 - God is glorified when we call attention to His character and His actions
 - God is glorified when we obey His commands (Matthew 28:19)
 - God is glorified when we tell others of His wondrous works of grace (Psalm 29:1)
- (2) Love for people and a concern for their welfare—now and in eternity (Matthew 22:39)

How do I prepare to share the Gospel?

- (1) Knowledge – be confident of what the Gospel is and develop a simple presentation with simple language
 - (2) Listen – Be attentive to what others say as you pray for opportunities to speak truth.
 - (3) Practice – with family, friends, church members until you feel good about presentation.
 - (4) Prayer – Pray for yourself and those who are lost...that:
 - God will put a desire in your heart to share the Gospel with the lost (eternal separation from God)
 - God will enable you to speak honestly, simply and accurately.
 - God will direct you to people He wants you to share with.
 - God will put lost people in your life and that He will prepare those to embrace the Gospel.
 - (5) Commitment—Commit to a godly life of Bible study, obedience, fellowship and accountability with other believers, and commit to interaction with unbelievers.
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