

What is the Gospel?

- Why this matters?

- “Gospel” / “good news” -- The gospel is the good news about what God has done in Jesus Christ to save us.

- Historical (“news”) & theological (“good”) dimensions (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

- Four elements to the gospel message:
 - God -- God is our holy creator and judge; he punishes all sin perfectly (Rom 1:18).
 - Man -- Everyone of us has sinned and therefore deserves God’s wrath (Rom 3:23).
 - Christ -- God has saved us through the substitutionary death of Christ (Rom 3:23-24).
 - Response -- This gift of salvation is received by repenting of our sins and trusting in Christ (Rom 3:23-25a).

- What the gospel isn’t?
 - Earning God’s favor; works-based (Gal 2:21).

 - Self-help, self-improvement, or behavioral change.

 - Our response -- “Repent and believe.”

 - “Praying the prayer.”

 - Asking Jesus into your heart.

- Making Jesus your Lord / Giving your life to Christ.
- A relationship with God.
- “God has a wonderful plan for your life.”
- “God loves you.”

What is Evangelism?

- Definition: *Successful evangelism is stepping out in the power of the Spirit with the intention to share the gospel and leaving the results to God.*
- “Evangelize” = to announce or proclaim “good news” / the gospel (evangel).
- Mark 4:1-20.
- 1 Corinthians 3:5-7.
- What evangelism is: Evangelism is clearly articulating the gospel and calling for its proper response -- repentance and faith.
- What evangelism isn't:
 - Getting people to make a decision / seeing conversions (2 Cor 2:15-16).
 - “Lifestyle evangelism.”
 - Apologetics.
 - Sharing your testimony.

Who is called to do Evangelism?

- 1 Peter 2:4-9.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.
- Romans 10:9-15.
- Acts 1:8.
- How might more frequently and confidently seeing yourself as God's ambassador, among the royal priesthood, empowered by the Holy Spirit change your motivation to "announce or proclaim the good news"?

Why Do Evangelism?

- "Evangelism is an overflow of the joy we have from the gospel, and the conviction we have in the gospel."
- God: Passionate Pursuit of God's Glory.
 - Ephesians 1:4-6 -- Why did God save us?
 - 1 Peter 2:9.
 - Revelation 7:12 -- God deserves all glory and honor and praise.
 - Westminster Catechism: "The chief end of man is to glorify God, and enjoy him forever.
- The Lost: A Heart Broken for People.
 - Romans 9:1.

- Luke 15:11-31.
- Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12.
- Romans 1:18.
- Romans 6:20-21.
- Matthew 7:13-14.
- You: Great Rewards.
 - 1 Thes 2:19.
 - Ephesians 3:7-10.
 - 1 John 1:1-4.
- Conclusion: We can be confident sharing the gospel.
 - Because Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life,” we can be confident in sharing it with reckless frequency and unwavering confidence.
 - *“If we do not believe the sufficiency of the gospel, we will never share it boldly and simply. Yet, if we truly believe that God’s word does the work of conversion through the power of his Holy Spirit, we will unabashedly share the simple and unadorned truth of the gospel. A truncated and inadequate gospel will quickly be abandoned and never shared. But a gospel that can save by grace through faith — apart from works — as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9) is believed, treasured, and declared boldly. With fellow believers, we must remind each other of the sufficiency of God’s word to do his work for his purposes. If we are confident in the ability of the gospel to transform lives, we can boldly and indiscriminately proclaim this good news with sacrificial love to the lost in the hope that some will be saved.”* -- Steven Lee, Desiring God, “Four Reasons We Don’t Share the Gospel”