

Christian Language

The Centrality of the Gospel

A. Everyone gets the Gospel.

1. Unbelievers
2. Believers
3. Undecided

B. What is the Gospel?

1. God is holy. I am not. Jesus Saves. Christ is my life. –Vroegop
2. “Romans Road”
 - i. Romans 3:23
 - ii. Romans 6:23a
 - iii. Romans 6:23b
 - iv. Romans 10:9
 - v. Romans 5:1
3. Two Ways to Live
4. 3 Circles (See 3 Circles Page)

C. The Gospel is forever primary.

“The gospel is not just the ABC of the Christian life but the A to Z of the Christian life.” Tim Keller

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Cor. 2:1-2

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...1 Cor. 15:3-4

D. We don't move past the Gospel!

1. The Gospel is not elementary, with "mature" Christianity found elsewhere or beyond.
2. Regularly referencing the Gospel is not a "Jesus juke" or a WWJD scolding.

Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Galatians 3:2-3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 2 Peter 1:3-10

3. We must help people think "how does the cross impact this?"

E. The Gospel is our operating system.

Like the programming that goes unseen in a computer, yet runs all the software—so must the Gospel be at the core of what we think, want, and how we operate.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-3

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling¹ the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:17-21

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:9-12

F. We start by preaching the Gospel to ourselves.

“Hearing the word of the cross, and preaching it to ourselves, is the central strategy for sinners in the fight for joy.” John Piper

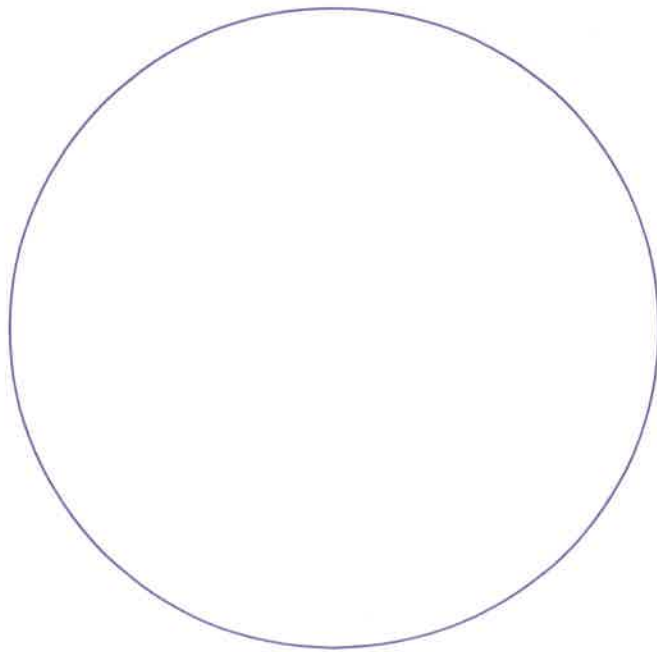
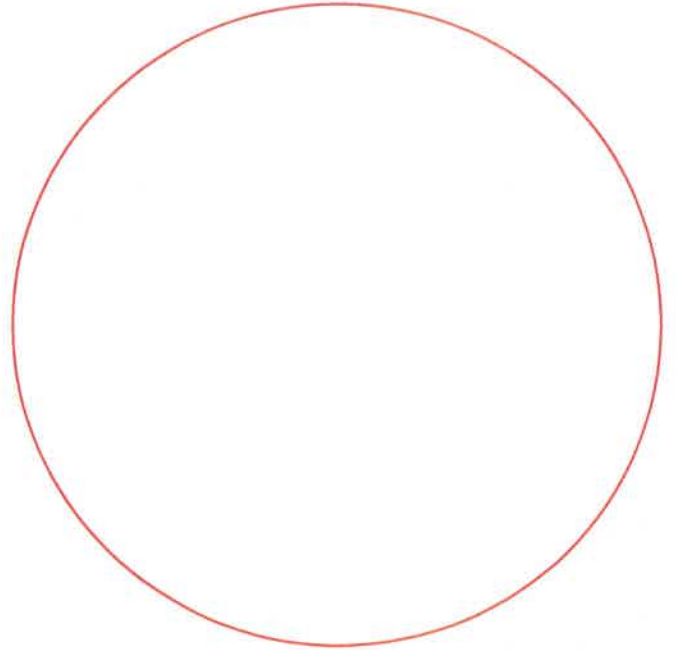
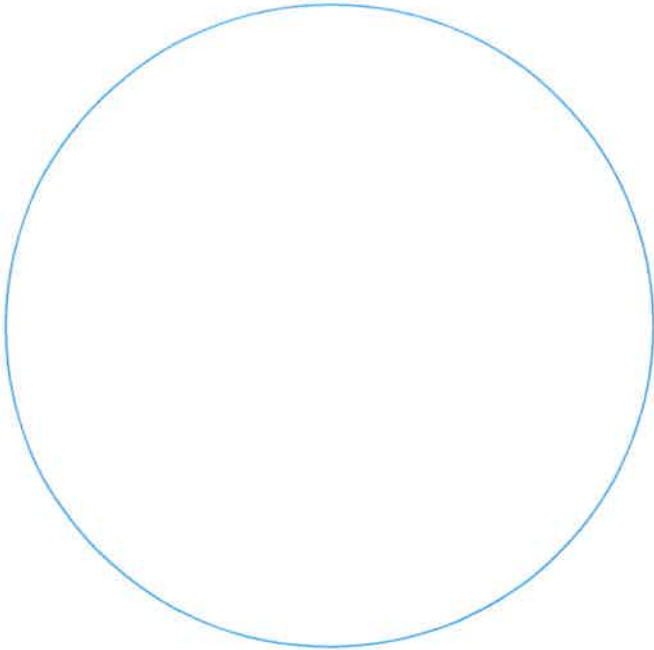
“There is a difference between merely reminding ourselves of truth and preaching to ourselves the truth of the gospel.” David Mathis

“The gospel, if it is really believed, removes neediness - the need to be constantly respected, appreciated, and well regarded; the need to have everything in your life go well; the need to have power over others. All of these great, deep needs continue to control you only because the concept of the glorious God delighting in you with all His being is just that - a concept and nothing more. Our hearts don't believe it, so they operate in default mode. Paul is saying that if you want to really change, you must let the gospel teach you - that is to train, discipline, coach you - over a period of time. You must let the gospel argue with you. You must let the gospel sink down deeply into your heart, until it changes your motivation and views and attitudes.” Tim Keller

E. Group questions:

1. As a group, take at least 3 or 4 various counseling topics, and take those topics to the 3 Circles Gospel model. Work them through the model in terms of
 - a. God's good creation (God's design).
 - b. How that issue was brought about by the fall.
 - c. How the Gospel speaks to that issue.
2. Why might Christians be prone to move “beyond the Gospel?”
3. Why is it so important that the Gospel penetrates our “operating system?”
4. What is the difference between simply reminding yourself of the Gospel truth, and preaching it to yourself? What are some practical ways we can meditate on the Gospel that it might sink deep down into our hearts?

3 Circles Gospel Presentation



And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Romans 8:20-21

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” Matthew 7:24-27

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. Galatians 5:19-21

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; Galatians 5:22-23