



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

In two words... the **DEATH** and **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared ...

- 1 Corinthians 15:1–5

The Gospel is Jesus Christ's death and resurrection in my place. Traditional religion tells us that I give God a good record, and in response He blesses me. Gospel-Centered Christianity declares that God gives me a perfect record in Jesus Christ as a free gift. I am a sinner and I only receive that gift when I admit I am a moral failure and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. God gives me this acceptance in Christ and then I live a life of gratitude (Romans 12:1).

Consider the following summations of the Gospel:

“The Gospel is this: God sends His son into the world, the God man, Jesus Christ. Really man, really God. Really human, really divine. He lives a perfect life. Fulfills the whole law. Dies on the cross in the place of sinners intentionally. Absorbs all the wrath of God against those who believe in him. Takes away all their guilt, forgives all their sins. Rises from the dead triumphant over death and hell and Satan. Ascends. Rule with power from on high, and will come again. Gives eternal life, raises from the dead all who trusted in him. There is no better news.”

(Adapted from a message by John Piper - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMdX5IO5Eqc&feature=related>)

“There is one God. He is the maker of Heaven and earth. And He made us in His image and likeness as male and female, with dignity value, worth, and purpose. He made us to worship - to reflect His glory, to be in relationship with Him and one another, and to rule over His Creation. And we chose to sin against Him, to rebel against Him, to distrust Him, to disobey Him. As a result we are separated from God and we live under the foolish myth that we are each our own

god, declaring right and wrong and living our own life by our own standards. And that God lovingly came into human history as the man-God Jesus, fully God and fully man. He was born of a virgin and he lived a perfect life without sin though he was tempted in every way we are. And he went to the cross and there substituted himself for us. Our first parents in the garden, Adam and Eve, substituted themselves for God and at the cross Jesus reversed that substitution and substituted himself for sinners. And when he went to the cross he took willingly upon him the sin of those who would come to trust in him. That means me. As a sinner, Jesus went to the cross and took upon himself all my sin past, present and future. And Jesus Christ, God who was a man died in my place, for my sins, paying my debt to God and purchasing my salvation. Jesus dead body was then laid in a tomb. And for three day he was buried. On the third day, a Sunday, which is why we worship on that day, Jesus rose in victory over Satan, sin, death demons and hell. And he commissioned us with the Holy Spirit to be missionaries to tell this amazingly good news that there is a God who passionately, lovingly, continually, relentlessly, pursues us. And he ascended into heaven. And today Jesus is alive and well. And he is seated on a throne ruling and reigning over all nations, all cultures, all philosophies, and all races and all periods of time. He is ruling over moderns, postmoderns, women, men, children and elderly, rich and the poor, wise and simple, black and white, those who are living and those who are dead and those who have been born and those who will be born. And he is King of kings and Lord of lords and he is ruling and reigning over all people and he is commanding everyone everywhere to repent of every sin. He is coming again to judge the living and the dead. And those who trust in him will enjoy eternity in his kingdom of heaven forever and those who do not will suffer apart from him in the conscious eternal torments of hell. That is what we believe. We believe in Jesus.”

(Adapted from a message by Mark Driscoll - http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=IFTX80TpZ_4)

What do we need to include when we share the Gospel? We must talk about...

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| 1) GOD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He is <i>loving</i>. - He is <i>holy</i>. - He is <i>just</i>. | <p><i>John 3:16</i>
 <i>1 Peter 1:15-16</i>
 <i>Romans 3:25-26</i></p> |
| 2) MANKIND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are sinners. - We are separated from God. | <p><i>Romans 3:23</i>
 <i>Colossians 1:21, Romans 6:23</i></p> |
| 3) JESUS CHRIST | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He is God. - He was man. - He paid the debt of our sin. - He offers the gift of salvation. | <p><i>Philippians 2:6-8</i>
 <i>John 4:6-7, 11:35; Heb. 4:15-16</i>
 <i>Colossians 2:13-14; 1 Pet 3:18</i>
 <i>Colossians 1:22, Romans 6:23</i></p> |
| 4) YOU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a <i>personal</i> response. - We cannot earn our salvation. | <p><i>Matt. 7:21-23; Romans 10:13</i>
 <i>Ephesians 2:8-10</i></p> |

