



Part 3: Holding to the True Gospel 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 58

Are we standing on the true gospel of Jesus Christ?

The Apostle Paul is speaking to the church in Corinth, passionately reminding them of the gospel in which they have taken their stand because they are at risk of standing on the wrong gospel. The reality is that we all stand on something, we all find ultimate value and worth in something. Are we standing on the true gospel of Jesus Christ?

1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11, 58

- True Gospel – Creed of the early church
 - Christ died for our sins
 - That He was buried and raised on the third day
 - He appeared to more than five hundred people
- Doug Brown, “Belief is important because it is the first step in a love relationship with God. Belief leads us into love.”

Christ died for our sins

- The importance of the language of “sin”

“Neither the language of medicine nor of law is adequate substitute for the language of [sin]. Contrary to the medical model, we are not entirely at the mercy of our maladies. The choice is to enter into the process of repentance. Contrary to the legal model, the essence of sin is not [primarily] the violation of laws but a wrecked relationship with God, one another, and the whole created order. “All sins are attempts to fill voids,” wrote Simone Weil. Because we cannot stand the God-shaped hole inside of us, we try stuffing it full of all sorts of things, but only God may fill [it].” – Barbara Brown Taylor (in Tim Keller’s *The Reason for God*)

- Sin is the diagnosis, and the only remedy is Jesus. (i.e Mark 2:1-12)
- Sin → Brokenness → Pain/Suffering. This paradigm is helpful because people don’t connect with the felt need of dealing with

sin but rather the felt need of pain and suffering. It acknowledges that something is broken. What we know from the truth of scripture is that the root brokenness is sin.

- When we hear “Jesus died for our sins”, may we hear and experience so much more. May we would know that Jesus sees us and knows our pain. His heart aches over our struggles and the brokenness that we are experiencing. And he also sees the deeper roots of this pain and brokenness, he sees our sin. And yet, full of mercy and love, He gave His life to pay for the penalty for our sins. He took the full weight of our sins upon a splintery wooden cross. He gave His final breath so that we can have life in Him. And he rose again to defeat sin and death. This is the gospel; this is the good news.

That He was buried and raised on the third day and appeared to more than five hundred

- We almost casually acknowledge this and miss the significance of Jesus resurrection. Jesus did not just die for our sins, His resurrection proves that He defeated death, and that He is God. It affirms and proves all that He said and did.
- If we compare with other religious leaders
 - Buddha – Siddhartha Gautama, born in Nepal, at the age of 29 set off on a spiritual journey of self-denial and contemplation. He lived a religious and exemplary life, and then died and stayed dead.
 - Muhammed – AD 570 – claimed he received a special revelation from God when he was 40 years old, lived a religious life according to those revelations and then at 63 died and stayed dead.
 - While in contrast, when Jesus died, he did not stay dead, he rose again.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, “Death has been swallowed up in victory? Where, O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

A Call to Stand firm on the True Gospel – Jesus died for our sins and was raised again

- Implication in the apostle Paul’s life – 1 Corinthians 15:10
- A grace that transforms and a grace that empowers

A Grace that empowers – 1 Corinthians 15:58

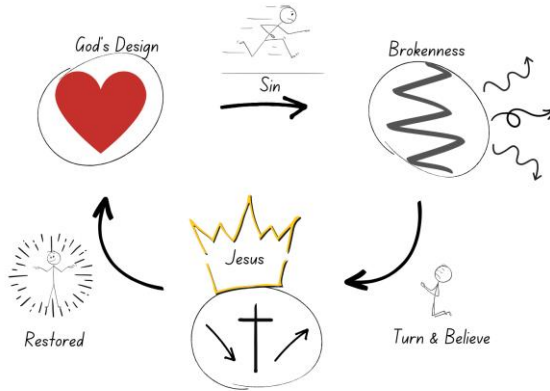
- What is the work and labor of the Lord?
- We see it in the story of God: Creation mandate of Genesis (Genesis 1) → Abrahamic Blessing (Genesis 12) → Great Commandment (Matthew 22) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28)
- Greenwood’s Mission – Forming Disciples who love Jesus and follow His way.

Sharing the Gospel Tool

- 3 Circles - ‘Turning Every Day Conversations into Gospel Conversations’ by Jimmy Scroggins and Steve Wright
- 3 Circles - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcj5G_4dwrl

Thoughts on 3 Circles Evangelism:

- We first need to preach this to ourselves every day.
- This is best shared in relationships with others
- The power of this tool is connecting on the felt need of 'Brokenness.' Instead of cold turkey evangelism, connect with people at their point of pain. You can say something like this. "I have not been in the exact situation you mentioned but I have experienced some very difficult times. Can I take 3 minutes and share with you something that has given me hope."
- Motivation of love



Are you standing on the true gospel of Jesus Christ?

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think our culture's view on the topic of "sin"? How do you typically respond to the topic of "sin"? What do you think about the idea of "sin" giving language to our true diagnosis so that we might experience the true remedy of Jesus' saving love?
- As you stand on the true gospel of Jesus Christ, our broken human nature wants to add things to it. What are some other things in your life that you maybe give too much value and worth?
- What has been your experience sharing the gospel with others? What do you think of using '3 Circles Evangelism' in sharing the hope we have with those who are struggling?