

THE GOSPEL AND THE POWER OF BELIEF

I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word gospel literally means *good news*. This is very different from *good advice*.

The gospel is that God himself has come to rescue and renew all of creation in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Why does creation (which includes you and me) need rescuing? The answer is sin. In order to understand the *good news* we have to understand the *bad news*.

Before sin is an *action* it is a *condition*.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalm 51:5 ESV

Our behaviors are determined by our emotions, our emotions are determined by our thoughts, and our thoughts are determined by our *desires*.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings death. *James 1:13-15 ESV*

People usually try to blame their sin on their circumstances (I got angry because someone cut me off in traffic, I started to worry because I lost my job and my finances are low, I yelled at my roommate because they weren't listening to me). However, the reality is that our circumstances are not the cause of our sin, but merely serve to illuminate what is already in our hearts.

"Sinners tend to respond sinfully to being sinned against."

-Paul David Tripp

Everything we say and do is rooted in our desires, and how we go about fulfilling our desires is shaped by what we *believe*.

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Hebrews 3:12 ESV

"Sinful acts always have their origin in some form of unbelief; behind every sin is a lie. The root of all of our behaviors and emotions is the heart, what it trusts and what it treasures."

-Tim Chester

Sin is never truly conquered by simply changing our outward behaviors, what really needs to change is what we are believing in our hearts. All sin is a heart issue, and the gospel is the only message that has the power to change the human heart.

II. THE FOUR ETERNAL TRUTHS OF GOD

- 1) God is GREAT... so I don't have to be in control.
(Desire = Security / Idol = Control)
- 2) God is GLORIOUS... so I don't have to fear others.
(Desire = Acceptance / Idol = Approval of Man)
- 3) God is GOOD... so I don't have to look elsewhere for my satisfaction.
(Desire = Satisfaction / Idol = Comfort & Pleasure)
- 4) God is GRACIOUS... so I don't have to prove myself to myself.
(Desire = Significance / Idol = Power)

III. WHAT DO THESE TRUTHS HAVE TO DO WITH THE GOSPEL?

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. Hebrews 1:3 ESV

Each of these four truths represent one of the primary characteristics of God's nature. And the nature of God is most clearly seen through the person and work of Jesus. Christ is the ultimate demonstration of what God is like. In his life, death, and resurrection we see God's greatness, glory, goodness, and grace most wonderfully and eternally put on display.

"To say to temptation 'I must not do this' is legalism. To say 'I need not do this because Jesus is bigger and better' is the gospel."
 -Tim Chester

FIRST RESPONSE - COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS

DAY/TIME	LEADERS	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO
The First Sunday of Every Month at 7PM	Joel Webbon Rony Renfrow Stacy Craft	3240 Lowell St San Diego, CA 92106	469-487-6298 joel@theresponsechurch.com

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

DAY/TIME	LEADERS	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO
Tuesday at 7PM	Joel & Megan Webbon	3240 Lowell St San Diego, CA 92106	469-487-6298 joel@theresponsechurch.com
Wednesday at 7PM	Jacob & Ally Merkey	3062 Malaga St. San Diego, CA 92110	713-385-6940 jacob@theresponsechurch.com
Thursday at 7PM	Rony & Danielle Renfrow	3764 James St. San Diego, CA 92106	925-348-0128 rony@theresponsechurch.com
Thursday at 7PM	Stacy Craft	3328 Stern St. San Diego, CA 92106	704-778-2609 stacy@theresponsechurch.com