

WHEN TRUTH MEETS LIFE

What is the Gospel?

How does truth meet life?



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- ▣ The goal of the Gospel is transforming me into His image.
- ▣ The process of transformation is my beholding Him.
- ▣ This is the purpose of life – being transformed into His image.

Happiness or holiness?

- ▣ When *happiness* is my goal, *pain* is my enemy.
- ▣ When *holiness* is my goal, *sin* is my enemy.

Pain is not the enemy—sin is

“When relief of the inevitable pain of living in a fallen world becomes our priority, at that moment we leave the path toward pursuing God.” *Inside Out*, p. 79

“The choice before us is rather stark: either live to be comfortable...or live to know God. We can't have it both ways. One choice excludes the other.” *Inside Out*, p. 99

Pain can be our best friend!

“We change our behavior when the pain of staying the same becomes greater than the pain of changing.” *Boundaries with Kids*, p. 72

What hurts hearts?

- ▣ Sins committed against us
- ▣ Sins we commit
- ▣ The results of living in a sinful world

When truth meets life...

- ▣ We evaluate our priorities by comparing them to God's.
- ▣ We seek to shift our priorities to match God's, instead of excusing ours or attempting to dismiss His.

Glory thieves

- ▣ “At the bottom of a broken marriage, a shattered family, or a forsaken friendship you will always find stolen glory. We crave glory that does not belong to us, and we step on one another to get it. Rather than glorifying God by using the things he has given us to love other people, we use people to get the glory we love. Sin causes us to steal the story and rewrite it with ourselves as the lead, and with our lives at center stage.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 35

The self-esteem movement

“Every day, in some way, we buy the lies of autonomy and self-sufficiency, worshiping the creation rather than its Creator.”

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, p. 27

What is sin?

- ▣ “Sin is the ultimate disease, the grand psychosis...Rebellion is the inborn tendency to give in to the lies of autonomy, self-sufficiency, and self-focus.”
 - “I have the right to do what I want.”
 - “I don’t need to depend on or submit to anyone – I am all I need, myself.”
 - “I am the center of my world – I’ll do whatever brings me happiness.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 14

“Ye shall be as gods”

“Independence, self-sufficiency, and self-absorption lead us to think of ourselves first and to climb over the fences between ourselves and our desires. We want control and hate being controlled. We want to make up the rules and change them whenever it suits us. Essentially we want to be God, ruling our worlds according to our own will. No matter what else we are rebelling against, our rebellion is ultimately directed at God.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 14

Wisdom of men is foolishness

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” Psalm 14:1

Ezekiel 14:1-5

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols.”

What is an idol of the heart?

- ▣ An idol of the heart is anything that rules me other than God.
- ▣ Uprooting idols is not an event—it is a process.
- ▣ Idols are uprooted one by one as we *behold* God and compare our lives to His.
- ▣ This is how we are changed into God's image!

Where are my idols?

- Evaluate prayerfully.
- Make a list of what your heart hungers after.
 - Where do you turn when you are down?
 - What craving drives you to destructive thoughts and/or behaviors?
 - What motivates you to spend your time the way you do?

What is your God like?

- Prayerfully evaluate how the God you worship is different than the God of the Bible.
 - What did you long for as a child and not have?
 - What do you instinctively seek when you are down?
 - What does your heart ache for?
 - How does God promise to satisfy your heart longings?

Who has the heart?

“Whatever rules the heart will exercise inescapable influence over the person’s life and behavior.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 68

“Sin is much more than doing the wrong thing. It begins with loving, worshiping, and serving the wrong thing.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 67

“The deepest issues of the human struggle are not issues of pain and suffering, but the issue of worship, because what rules our hearts will control the way we respond to both suffering and blessing.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 71

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23