



Shaped by the Gospel: Gospel Theology Part 1

Silence & Prayer

Read Together

Gospel-centered ministry starts with a clear understanding of what the gospel is and isn't.

We all feel the tension between truth-telling and love, between legalism and relativism, between "conservative" and "liberal" churches. Many of us are familiar with gospel presentations given out with short pamphlets on the street, or with the "social gospel" that consists of helping the poor without any words at all. Are all approaches equal? How do we strike the right balance for our own ministries?

Understanding the richness and the outlines of the biblical gospel is the starting point and the power for all of life and your ministry.

Watch Intro Video: **Balanced Ministry Begins with the Gospel (3 minutes)**

Notes:

Using the categories described in the video, how would you characterize the church or churches that have influenced you the most?

What about our own church? Are we a "Father," "Son," "Spirit," or "Bible" church? Why would you say that?

The Gospel is Good news, not Good Advice

What method of sharing the Gospel are you most familiar with?



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How might sharing "good news" and "good advice" differ?

Break into Groups and Discuss:

On pages 65-72 (See Appendix), Tim Keller identifies several areas of human experience and social problems that the gospel has the power to affect. What area did you find most insightful? What other issues or items would you add to this list?

Review the intercanonical themes in the diagrams on pages 51-57. Which of these themes have you used before in your gospel presentations? Which are unfamiliar?

Watch Video: Gospel Theology Part 1 (13 minutes)

It's tempting to think that we need to jettison or change our doctrine to reach secular, postmodern people. But classic evangelical doctrine is more than equipped to answer today's questions and meet today's pastoral needs.

Notes:

How does Timothy Keller define "classical evangelical doctrine"?



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Homework

Read: The Need for Gospel Renewal (pages 101-112) 1.5 Pages a day!

Pray: Sit silently for 2 minutes each day and focus on his presence in your life and this community. Review the areas of Gospel Application in the appendix and ask the Lord to work in areas where you struggle with sin.