



Shaped by the Gospel Lesson 6: Gospel Renewal Part 2

2 Minutes of Silence

Today's Topic:

What brings about revival or renewal in a church or city? While it is difficult to define or control, it involves an intensified working of the Holy Spirit and a rediscovery of the gospel.

Watch Gospel Renewal Part 2 (23 minutes)

Notes:

Discuss:

How patient and flexible are you when the people in your church seem slow to understand the gospel? How can the gospel itself help you with this?

Do you return to the same themes, illustrations, or passages when you talk about Jesus and the Gospel? If so, what are they? Brainstorm at least three facets of the gospel you should add to your toolkit.

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Briefly Review the Following Chart:

3 Ways to Live

Legalism	Liberalism	Gospel Christianity
God is holy	God is love	God is holy AND love
We are sinful: have to earn it	God accepts all	We are sinful and accepted
Earn your righteousness	You don't need perfect righteousness	Receive God's perfect righteousness
Matter is bad; we are fallen (Asceticism)	Matter is good; we aren't fallen (satisfy physical appetites)	Matter is good yet we are fallen (physical enjoyment; yet simple living)
Sin only effects individuals – just do evangelism	Naïve about depth of human sin – just social action	Sin effects both individual and social systems – do both evangelism and social action
People can't change (OR change is easy!)	People don't need to change	People can change but no quick fixes
Go into guilt (work it off)	Go away from guilt (convince that its OK)	Go through guilt (rest in Christ)
Truth without grace	Grace without truth	Truth with Grace; Grace with Truth
Obey the truth to be saved	We are accepted by God regardless of what we do	We are unconditionally accepted by God
Repent only of sins	Don't repent	Repentance: turning from self-justification to reliance on Jesus' record
Sorry for sins – failure to live up to standards for self salvation	Not sorry at all Only sorry for bad consequences of sins	Christians realize that <i>both</i> their sins and their best deeds have been ways of avoiding Jesus as savior.
Without a knowledge of Christ's completely satisfying life and death, the knowledge of sin crushes us or moves us to deny and repress it.	Without a knowledge of our extreme sin, the payment of the gospel seems trivial and does not electrify or transform us.	Sin's overwhelming load has been taken by the one who could bear it and we are freed to respond in love. The truth of this transforms the Christian's life.

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Case Study

Imagine you're part of a team at work and you're criticized unjustly for your work. You feel hurt and embarrassed. How would you respond according to each profile above? Write a set of three responses.

Legalist

Relativist

Christian

Now imagine how you would counsel each person if they came to you for advice.

Legalist

Relativist

Christian



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Application

Which profile do you personally tend towards? Think of a situation in which you would react in each way (for example, I'm a legalist when it comes to drugs and alcohol, a relativist when it comes to greed, a gospel believer when it comes to marriage).

What would it look like to "renew" these legalist and relativist areas of your life with the gospel?

This marks the mid-way point of the class. Next week we will transition from Shaped by the Gospel to Loving the City

As you reflect on the last 6 weeks of material, What is one way you hope to encourage gospel renewal dynamics in your church, family, or another group of people?



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Homework

Answer: This marks the mid-way point of the class. Next week we will transition from Shaped by the Gospel to Loving the City

As you reflect on the last 6 weeks of material, What is one way you hope to encourage gospel renewal dynamics in your church, family, or another group of people?

Pray: Thank the lord for his grace in your life. Continue asking him to reveal areas where the gospel has not fully sunk in.

Read: Intentional Contextualization
(pages 25-40 in Loving the City)
Balanced Contextualization
(pages 41-48 in Loving the City) Only 3.3 pages per day!

Diagnostic Questions:

Evidence of God's presence in your life

- How real has God been this week to your heart?
- How clear and vivid is your assurance and certainty of God's forgiveness and fatherly love. To what degree is that real to you right now?
- Are you having any particular seasons of sweet delight in God? Do you really sense his presence in your life? Do you really sense him giving you his love?

Evidence of Scripture changing you

- Have you been finding Scripture to be alive and active?
- Are you finding certain biblical promises extremely precious and encouraging? Which ones?
- Are you finding God's calling you or challenging you to something through the word, in what ways?

Evidence of a growing appreciation for God's mercy

- Are you finding God's grace more glorious and moving now than you have in the past?
- Are you conscious of a growing sense of the evil of your heart, and in response, a growing dependence on and grasp of the preciousness of the mercy of God?