

Will the Real Gospel Please Stand Up? (Theological Perspective)

The Traditional “Gospel” Message

The Good News

<p><u>The Nature of Man</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You’re a sinner, you need to repent Your heart is desperately wicked (Jer 17:9). You must take up your cross daily and forsake your own corrupt desires and ambitions. Your ways are not His ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some are in bondage and need deliverance but most are “good” people that just need a salvation experience / relationship with Jesus God created you in His own image with desires and motivations that match up with your calling. He wants to grant your heart’s desire because it overlaps His will for your life (Ps 37:4)
<p><u>The State of the World</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society is evil, corrupt and carnal. We should avoid participation in government and social institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The world is full of many good people that will respond to what God is doing (Katrina is a good example) Some are like Cyrus; they cooperate with God before they are saved. Evil seems to prevail in some areas, but God is going to fill the earth with His glory. Marketplace ministry is a one of His tools to reach into the world
<p><u>The nature of God</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is Lord and we must learn to obey and serve him and give up our own ambitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus has a plan to fill the earth with the glory of God. Your part of that plan. He will lead you through life’s trials to great blessing and fruitfulness. He calls us “friends” instead of servants. Our desire are His desires!
<p><u>The Nature of Leadership (Christ-like)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders are Christ-like (Lords) and we must submit to them and deny our self-will. Leaders are prone to control; mini-lords. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders are Christ-like (friends). They equip up us and release us into our calling to do the same for others.
<p><u>The Future</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evil is going to dominate this world culminating in a time of the great tribulation in which Christians will be persecuted into hiding until the rapture occurs at the Lord’s return. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good and evil will grow together like wheat and tares until Jesus return. The kingdom of God will seem small at first like a mustard seed, but God will use his people (Kings) like a mighty army to fill the earth with his glory and take the gospel to every nation, tribe and tongue. Though not everyone will go to Heaven, we make disciples of “all men” that respond.
<p><u>Consequences of the this message</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People outside the traditional church find it pessimistic, irrelevant and ignore it. Even Christians are prone to withdraw from church attendance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsaved people resonate with the good news of the gospel and respond to it because it’s what the Holy Spirit is already telling them.

The message to Me (Personal Perspective)

The Servant

The Friend

<u>Personal Motivation</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm a servant awaiting orders, avoiding initiative and presumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have God's heart in my Heart (Heb 8:10) My dream is important to God It's the means to accomplish His will
<u>Spiritual Guidance</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If God doesn't speak I start looking for the sin in my life that must be blocking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If God doesn't speak I still feel permission to put my foot on some land, make decisions... knowing He'll back me.
<u>My Inheritance – Abundant Life</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others have abundance; my experience is poverty in finances, ministry, and health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel invited to God's perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wealth to make a difference Authority of sickness, oppression An open door to ministry (I Pick) My cup overflows
<u>When Bad Things Happen</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I check for God's judgment, review my life for sin I put the brakes on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I focus on the joy set before Heb 12:2-3 I consider it pure joy whenever I face trials James 1:2-3 Because... a resurrection is pending, opportunities surface in turmoil Persecution and warfare are not surprising or a setback (I'm more than a conqueror)
<u>Level of Enthusiasm</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My life as a servant is drudgery. Doing for others what I don't enjoy. The more I work the more my dream fades and the older I feel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is nothing more fun than pursuing mine and God's dream... fruitful, fun, and fulfilling (I've found my life's purpose) My youth is continually renewed who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Ps 103:5 NIV
<u>Evangelism</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I try to discipline myself to share the gospel with sinners and do the work of an evangelist. I honestly don't share very often and I've never led anyone to the Lord. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People are attracted... they notice my delight in pursuing my dream, they see the prosperity in my soul and finances. They want to be part of what I'm doing. Divine appointments are a way of life and happen routinely.

Dualism Compared	To Biblical Christianity
Definitions Dualism divides soul and Spirit (Heb 4:12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ our spirit is good ➤ our soul is corrupt 	Man is Spirit, Soul, and Body (1Thess 5:23) Paul confirms Souls of disciples (Acts 14:22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We must discern defilement is soul or spirit; not assume either is bad
Nature of Man Man is essentially a spirit (Jn 4:24) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God is a spirit, 2. man created in his image 3. Therefore man is a spirit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ "spirit" goes to heaven; no body (2Cor 5:1-4) ➤ Soul is evil influence (must die) 	Man has a soul and body in this life and heaven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God has a soul (Heb 10:38, Lev 26:11, 26:30, 1Sam 2:35) Created Adam a living soul (Gen 2:7) ➤ Glorified body in Heaven (1Cor 15:35-55) ➤ Body...raised imperishable (vs 42) Soul must be discerned; (redeemed) Soul is God's creation (Ps 138:3b, ps 23:1a, 3a, Prov 13:4b, 3Jn2, Acts 14:22)
How we are led by God's Spirit God's spirit leads / communicates with my spirit (Pro 20:27) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "I want God's will, not my will" 2. "God's thoughts are not my thoughts" Isa 55:8-9 3. Don't act out of emotion, but from leading 4. Puts leading of Spirit / spiritual first often at expense of family, people, job, community 	God's spirit leads our spirit, soul, and body <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He give us desires of our heart (Ps 37:4, Heb 8:10, 10:16) 2. Emotion is part of God's nature – ours too 3. Bodily desires are good; right context (sex, hunger, rest, etc) 4. Creativity is paying attention to our thoughts God is in our body, soul, and spirit (not just spirit)
Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Full-time "spiritual" ministry has highest value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God is raising Kings and working through commerce to accomplish the great commission ➤ "God's Man" has always ministered in the "world"
World Cannot serve God and mammon (Mt 6:24) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A job or business is not serving God Reject the natural world in favor of spiritual world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Happy doing something they don't enjoy (pretense) ➤ Financially hurting, own nothing of value ➤ Aloof from world (society, politics, Government, etc) 	Feel good doing something they do enjoy (Col 3:23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fruitful naturally and spiritually ➤ Able to find God's prosperity ➤ Fruitful and engaged in the world ➤ In touch with people ➤ Loves the world like God does; gives himself (Jn 3:16)
Fate of Soul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Soul must be put to death ➤ Avoids "soul-ish" expression of emotion (stoic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Soul is resurrected to abundant life (Deut 10:12, Josh 22:5) ➤ Ministers / works though sanctified expression of soul
Place of Rest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enjoys thoughts of escaping natural realm ➤ Seeks refuge in spiritual realm; leads to isolation ➤ Hates "his life in this world" Jn 12:25 ➤ Hates is own soul, Wastes his life calling ➤ Prone to escapist eschatology (any minute rapture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lives for God in this world ➤ Resurrects his soul to life, vitality, expression ➤ Believes soul is important (Mt 16:26, Mk 8:26, Lu 9:25) ➤ Balances spiritual disciplines and people involvement ➤ Finds rest nourishment in the will of God (Jn 4:24)
Relationships <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not fully available to spouse (believes marriage is soul-ish, carnal at some level) 2. detached, unavailable; Children don't get attention often rebel against dualist father 3. has walls preventing natural attachments, relationships 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Believes natural realm is not evil but redeemable 2. World is very good (Gen 1:31) 3. Nature is glorious 1Cor 15:40-41 4. People are wonderful
Hierarchy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spirit is master (good) 2. Soul is servant (evil) 3. Body is slave (evil) 	Accountability Our spirit doesn't always lead (judged by soul) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spirit of prophets subject to prophets (1Cor 14:32) ➤ Rules his own spirit (Pro 16:32, 25:28)...with soul