How To Communicate The Gospel

Introduction

The Gospel is the central event in Biblical and human history. All of Christian doctrine is rooted in the person and work of Jesus, therefore the believer's ability to know and clearly communicate it is essential. One of the most practical tools for building gospel fluency is the process of writing a personal "Gospel Story". This document gives practical tips for for this process.

Definition

A Gospel Story is a practical tool that is to be used as a regular rhythm in MC life. It is a simple way for believers to share their TRUE spiritual story under the authority of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Here are the two most impacting benefits of gospel storying on your MC culture.

1. It keep the Gospel as a central theme of your MC culture. Gospel storying is a regular “re-centering” of your MC’s attention on the centrality of the gospel. These stories, when shared properly, encourage believers in their justification and in their sanctification.
2. It equips believers to see their life in God’s Larger Story and to share their story with the Gospel of Jesus as the storyline. When a Gospel Story is shared, it becomes a powerful and clear evangelistic tool in the life of the unbeliever.

Clarifications

A Gospel Story Is Is Not A "Testimony"

It is important to note the difference between a Gospel Story and the more traditional "testimony" where believers tell the story of how they were saved. In these more traditional approaches to "sharing one's story" the majority of the "story" is the individual believer's life circumstances which ultimately lead to them believing in the gospel and being saved. This is not wrong by any means, but it often lacks in one important area - gospel clarity.

In writing and communicating one's Gospel Story, we are seeking to make the majority of the story be the gospel itself. We desire to communicate the core truths of God's redemption plan for people - from a clear presentation of God's authority and design, unto the details of lostness and faith in Jesus, and ending in a picture of what the new redeemed life means for a believer.

A Gospel Story Is More Than Just "Getting Saved"

Another significant principle that guides a Gospel Story is the importance of representing the Biblical gospel in its fullest sense. As mentioned earlier, "testimonies" often focused exclusively on a believer's life story leading up to their faith in that which leads to personal salvation. We often refer to this as "getting saved". Is this true? Yes. Is it complete? No.

A Gospel Story is meant to provide a full picture of God's "good news" for people. This includes more than simple faith for salvation from Hell.; God has provided salvation *from* hell and salvation *for* a new kind of eternally meaningful life. It is our aim in a Gospel Story to provide God's full vision for a person's life - total salvation from an eternal life in Hell and total salvation to an eternally meaningful temporal life.

How To Write Your Gospel Story

Four critical components of the Gospel should form the “storyline” of every believer’s Gospel Story. Instead of the circumstances of one’s life being the defining points, the circumstances surrounding the finished work of Christ should become the defining points.

Creation

Your Gospel Story must begin with the truth of God as the Creator, owner, and final authority over your life. Without this, you would have never accepted what the Father did through and declared about His Son, Jesus Christ.

- **Considerations:** Creation addresses your foundational beliefs and your view of God/self/people. It is the most significant truth that impacts your personal identity. As an unbeliever, informed and led by the flesh, you embraced faulty beliefs that did not line up with the truth, and you could not become a believer until you came to terms with the Biblical view of God demonstrated in Creation.
- **Questions:**
    1. How would you describe your pre-saved life as it you demonstrated independence from God and His authority?
    2. How has your background (Childhood, parents, culture, friends, religious background, beliefs, values) led You to a certain identity?

Fall

Your Gospel Story must acknowledge the folly of your life and how you fell short of God’s righteous standard because of how you patterned your life after your forefather Adam.

- **Considerations:** The Fall points to the issue of how you have struggled, over the course of your unsaved life, to fix your life from your brokenness and sin. It addresses both the deep issue of your personal brokenness due to your independence
- **Questions:**
    1. How did you, using your own strength, wisdom, manipulation, etc., respond to and try to fix your brokenness?
    2. Who or what did you look to as a “savior” or an idol, and how did it / they fail to save
    3. How did your life choices oppose God and bring you under his condemnation?

Redemption

Your Gospel Story then leads to the point in history where you recognized **1**your sin, **2**the substitutionary work of Jesus’ death for your sins, and **3**the work of God alone in declaring you righteous and in right relationship with Him as a child in His family.

- **Considerations:** Movement toward redemption first addresses how you recognized that your life choices led you to a place of impending eternal death/separation from God. Next, it exults the substitutionary work of Jesus as the defining act in your story, the single greatest event that reconciled you into a right relationship with God and promised your eternal future with Him.
- **Questions:**
    1. How did you come to understand how Jesus was the true savior of your life and to place your personal faith in His work alone on your behalf?
    2. How did you come to understand that your justification/redemption placed you firmly in God’s family forever?

Restoration

Your Gospel Story will conclude with how your new-found place in the family of God and the promise of your future home in God’s restored Kingdom are shaping your life today.

- **Considerations:** Restoration is all about how the power of the gospel re-shapes your thinking, functional beliefs, and lifestyle choices, placing them all under the lens of eternity. It powerfully seeks to re-orient your worldview to bring about a radical shift in the way you choose to live. Promises of an entirely new eternity are crucial in developing and sustaining this radically different "Jesus" kind of lifestyle.
- **Questions:**
    1. How has the gospel helped you pursue a personal relationship with Jesus (moving from justification and into a focus on your sanctification/personal walk with Him)?
    2. What’s Jesus doing in your life now (in your living/working/playing) and how do you continue to look towards his eternal promises to motivate and sustain your life choices?