

What is The Gospel?

Part III – Good News for Today

October 2016



Recap: Fifty Shades of Grace

Our gospel has been clumsy

- ◆ God seems angry and distant
- ◆ Too black & white & focussed on afterlife
- ◆ No place for the Spirit
- ◆ Only part of the story



A good summary of the gospel

1. God wants us all as children
2. We chose independence
3. Jesus reconciles us back to the Father
4. We can choose to be His child and be filled with His Spirit
5. We are empowered by the Spirit to work with God to save the world

What About The Cross?



Different views

- ◆ Satisfaction/Penal Substitution
- ◆ Victory of Christ
- ◆ Moral Influence

The Cross is Central

- ◆ Anger – Romans 1:16-18
- ◆ Separation – Isaiah 59:2
- ◆ Sacrifice – Hebrews 9:26
- ◆ Substitution – Romans 5:8

But not as we might think!



The Glorious Cross!



Father, Son & Spirit working together to:

- ◆ Clean up our mess
- ◆ Free us from sin –
Colossians 2:15
- ◆ Deliver us from death! –
Hebrews 2:14-15
- ◆ Draw us back to Himself!

How should we preach?



- ◆ No dogma
- ◆ Listening!
- ◆ Understanding
 - ◆ Their story
 - ◆ Their hopes
 - ◆ Their fears
 - ◆ Their questions

What is the atheist's story?

- ◆ Life is by chance
- ◆ Death is the end
- ◆ Enjoy it while it lasts!
- ◆ Hopes
 - ◆ Democracy
 - ◆ Science
 - ◆ Capitalism



What is the Muslim's story?



- ◆ Misunderstood
- ◆ Marginalised
- ◆ Oppressed by the West
- ◆ Hopes
 - ◆ World dominion
 - ◆ Sharia Law
 - ◆ God

There is a lot of fear...



- ◆ Disease
- ◆ Global warming
- ◆ Oppression/Terrorism
- ◆ Recession
- ◆ Death

So how should we walk?

And what's our message?



Faith, Hope & Love!

- ◆ 1 Corinthians 13:13
- ◆ We walk in love
- ◆ Are filled with hope
 - ◆ For this life
 - ◆ For people
 - ◆ For the world
- ◆ Because of faith

