

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL

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WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

GOSPEL = *euangelion* (Greek) = The Good News!

In the bible, the gospel, or the good news, refers to the announcement that Jesus has brought the reign of God to our world through his life, death, and resurrection from the dead.

In other words, the gospel is the good news that there is new life in Christ!

Roman 1:3-4 (niv) *"The good news... Regarding God's Son, who descended from David in his physical lineage, and who was appointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Son of God in power through his resurrection from the dead: Jesus, the Messiah, our Lord."*

SO WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL?

1) Sacrificial Living

Romans 12:1-2 (niv) *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Your life is **not your own**.

The National Institute of Health held a study that found that the rates of anxiety INCREASE with rates of selfishness. So therefore, the more self-centred we are, the higher chances we have of experiencing stress and anxiety. The reason we are facing the biggest epidemic of anxiety and depression EVER is because we are becoming more selfish. Our worlds are becoming smaller. Our lives are becoming more narrow. We are becoming bigger.

But the bible teaches us to live differently...

Whilst society tells us that true life is found in what we GAIN, Christ teaches us that true life is found in what we LOSE.

Our lives are **FOUND** when they are **LOST** to God.

in our bible course. He is an incredibly smart man and his writings have seriously impacted my life!

Our lives have NOTHING to do with us! This life is not about us. We are not important. Our life doesn't belong to us. It belongs to God. The best thing to do for yourself is to put your life in the hands of the creator, because after all, he is the one who gave it to you.

John 3:30 (niv) *"He must become greater; I must become less."*

Romans 12:1-2 says that we are to be "**LIVING sacrifices**"

When we think of sacrifices, we think of death and loss.

But a living sacrifice is a sacrifice that is alive. This sacrifice is continuous. It is a conscious sacrifice. It is informed. It is deliberate and purposeful and devoted. It is not a once of decision to sacrifice oneself. It is a purposeful and intentional decision that needs to be made frequently.

We are not called to just be sacrifices, but to be LIVING sacrifices.

2) Practicing Service and Humility

Romans 12: 3-8 (niv) ³ *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.* ⁴ *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,* ⁵ *so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and **each member belongs to all the others**.* ⁶ *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your^a faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^b do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

God calls us to be **STEWARDS** = one who looks after another person's property

Everything in this life belongs to God!

We live out the Gospel in our lives firstly by ACKNOWLEDGING that nothing belongs to us and that we truly have nothing. Secondly, we need to realise that everything in our possession is not ours to keep, but is ours to manage and take care of.

It is easy to sacrifice and to live as stewards once we accept the truth that nothing ever belonged to us in the first place.

Romans 12:3-8 also talks about how we all have different gifts. If every person in the world was just like me, life would be SO boring! So many things would never get done, so many ideas would never come to life and the world would probably not function.

We need to be good, faithful and prayerful stewards of what God has given us.

3) Practicing Love

Romans 12: 9-21 (niv) ⁹ **Love must be sincere.** *Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.* ¹⁰ **Be devoted to one another in love.** *Honor one another above yourselves.* ¹¹ *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.* ¹² *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* ¹³ *Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.^[a] Do not be conceited.

**20 "If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.**

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."^[a]

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

On top of these people, we are called to love **everyone**, specifically our enemies as listed in Romans 12. Our enemies refers to those who have wronged us or those who have caused us pain in our life. And importantly, it refers to those who you disagree with. Think about those people who have seriously gotten under your skin, the ones who you feel like you could never relate to.

But why does God call us to love those who are different to us, and are most probably people who don't even love God? Because, as Jesus says, it is not the healthy who need the doctor but the sick!

The likelihood of someone who doesn't believe in God picking up a bible to learn about him is so unlikely. But what they will almost definitely read is you.

**"Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."
St. Francis of Assisi**

CONCLUSION

So why should we do these three things?

- 1) *Live in SACRIFICE*
- 2) *Be faithful STEWARDS*
- 3) *Practice LOVE*

Because we are the gospel that people will read.

Imagine if every single Christ follower decided that they would begin living in true sacrifice to God, be faithful stewards over everything in their life and practice love towards every single person.

Imagine the prayers that would be prayed; imagine the miracles that would happen; imagine the new willing servants God would have to use; imagine the incredibly powerful influence that the Church would have in today's society; imagine the generations of broken people who would experience new life in Christ.

Does your life reflect the Gospel? If someone was to look at your life, would they be able to see the good news in you?