

## The Gospel Centered Church

**Intro** – What the Gospel *is* verses what the Gospel *does*.

So what is a Gospel centered Church?

I. A church whose primary message is the Gospel

II. A church whose primary motivation for good works is the Gospel

III. Expressions of a Gospel centered Church

1. Preaching/Teaching (Counseling)
2. Worship
3. Serving/Mercy Ministries
4. Evangelism/Missions

### **Quotes (continued on back):**

“...the results of the gospel must never be separated from or confused with the gospel itself. I have often heard people preach this way: “The good news is that God is healing and will heal the world of all its hurts; therefore, the work of the gospel is to work for justice and peace in the world.” The danger in this line of thought is not that the particulars are untrue (they are not) but that it mistakes effects for causes. It confuses what the gospel is with what the gospel does... We must not give the impression that the gospel is simply a divine rehabilitation program for the world, but rather that it is an accomplished substitutionary work... The gospel, then, is preeminently a report about the work of Christ on our behalf – that is why and how the gospel is salvation by grace. The gospel is

news because it is about a salvation accomplished for us. It is news that creates a life of love, but the life of love is not itself the gospel.” -- Tim Keller

“The gospel is regularly presented not only as truth to be received and believed, but the very power of God to transform... One of the most urgently needed things today is a careful treatment of how the gospel, biblically and richly understood, ought to shape everything we do in the local church, all of our ethics, all of our priorities.” - D. A. Carson

“Paul is saying that if you want true change, you must let the gospel teach you. This word we translate *teach* is a Greek word that means to train, discipline, and coach someone over a period of time. In other words, you must let the gospel argue with you. You must let the gospel sink down deeply until it changes your views and the structures of your motivations. You must be trained and disciplined by the gospel.” - Tim Keller

“Call of the Christian musician is to faithfully make music in any context that reflects a grateful servants response to the gospel” -- Bob Kauflin

“In its conservative form, it [speaking of the church] has bought uncritically into the idea of religion as the fulfillment of individual consumer needs, thus turning the conservative church into something like felt-need shopping centers where the language of modern therapy and marketing reigns. People see Christ as a way to self-fulfillment and prosperity, not as a model for radical service to others.” - Tim Keller

