

## Clarifying the Confusion about THE GOSPEL

- Syncretize - to combine or attempt to combine the characteristic teachings, beliefs, or practices of (differing systems of religion or philosophy). Gospel clarity and avoiding syncretism, even evangelical syncretism, comes through scripture contrast: consider Rom. 11:6; Acts 13:38-39; Gal. 2:16, 21; Eph. 2:8-9
- Is the Gospel a powerful and important message to proclaim that the world needs to hear and believe? (Romans 1:14-17) True Christianity is not a religion of human performance, but it is a relationship of divine accomplishment based upon the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Is there a spiritual battle for context, content, & clarity the Gospel related to the unsaved {2 Cor. 4:3-7} & the saved {11:3-4}?

### I. THE ENTRANCE OF THE GOSPEL. (1 Corinthians 15:1a)

### II. THE ELEMENTS OF THE GOSPEL. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

A. The **CONTEXT** of the Gospel – the **BAD NEWS**. God is \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 99:9); man is \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 3:23; Isa. 64:6) ; and the penalty for sin is \_\_\_\_\_. (Ro., 6:23; Isa. 59:2)

B. The **CONTENT** of the Gospel – the **GOOD NEWS**. (15:3-4)

1. The Gospel of salvation centers in a *specific person* who is \_\_\_\_\_ - eternal deity who became sinless humanity. (15:3a; John 1:1,14)
2. The Gospel of salvation centers in a *specific work*, namely that Christ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Why is this significant? (2 reasons) Because through His death, the penalty of sin was paid (Heb. 2:9) and through His resurrection, He conquered sin and death and can now offer eternal life to you and me.
3. The Gospel of salvation centers in a *specific accomplishment*, namely that Christ died \_\_\_\_\_. Why is this significant? Because Christ's death was a substitutionary sacrifice (Romans 5:8) and a sufficient sacrifice. (John 19:30; Heb. 10:12)

C. The **One and Only required RESPONSE** to the Gospel of salvation to receive its blessings is \_\_\_\_\_ alone in \_\_\_\_\_ alone as presented in the Gospel. (15:2, 11; Acts 16:30-31; John 3:14-18) When the Gospel is correctly given, where does the spotlight shine?

- Remember that if you add even 1 work to the message of God's grace, it is no longer a message of \_\_\_\_\_. (Rom. 11:6; Eph. 2:8-9) Where do good works fit in? (Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:5, 8)
- Remember that the only response to the Gospel that is not a work is \_\_\_\_\_. (Rom. 4:4-5)
- Remember that the only object of faith that saves is \_\_\_\_\_ period, not Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_. (John 3:36, 5:24, 6:37-40, 8:24, 11:25-26; Rom.3:28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9)

D. **WHAT Are SOME of the WRONG RESPONSES to the GOSPEL?**

1. **Faith in Christ plus be WATER BAPTIZED. (1 Cor.1:17-18)** Clarification: Water baptism is only for those who have already been \_\_\_\_\_ by God's GRACE through FAITH alone in Christ alone and acts as a means of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel one has already believed. (Acts 8:35-39, 18:8)

2. **Faith in Christ plus be HOLY; don't SIN too much. (Titus 3:5)** Clarification: While God desires all believers to live a holy life as a \_\_\_\_\_ of being saved and their new position in Christ (Rom. 6), it is not the means of obtaining or maintaining salvation; otherwise, salvation would not be by \_\_\_\_\_ but by our \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 1:3-5, 13-19)
  3. **Faith in Christ plus REPENT FROM YOUR SINS. (John 3:18)** Clarification: The issue at salvation is not "repenting of your sins" but \_\_\_\_\_ about the SAVIOR who died for your sins so as to trust in His finished work alone. Repentance from sin does have a place \_\_\_\_\_ in the believer's life as part of the practical SANCTIFICATION or the spiritual growth process but is not a condition for justification before God. (2 Cor.7:8-11; 1 Jn. 1:5-10)
  4. **Faith in Christ plus ASK / INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR HEART. (John 1:12; Gal. 4:6)**  
Clarification: \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture are we told to ask/invite Jesus Christ into our hearts for He \_\_\_\_\_ comes in {as does the Holy Spirit – Eph. 1:13} the moment we trust in Christ alone as presented in the Gospel. To ask Jesus into your heart CONFUSES the Gospel as you do not ask for a free gift. Comment on Rev. 3:20.
  5. **Faith in Christ plus GIVE YOUR LIFE / HEART TO CHRIST.** Clarification: Salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ obtained by giving [your money, your commitment, or your life] but by \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of salvation through FAITH in CHRIST alone apart from works, ritual, or law. (John 1:12; Rom. 4:3-12)
  6. **Faith in Christ plus TOTALLY SUBMIT / SURRENDER TO CHRIST'S LORDSHIP OVER YOUR LIFE & A LIFE-TIME COMMITMENT TO OBEY CHRIST. (Romans 12:1)**  
Clarification: While a sinner MUST believe on the Lord [God] Jesus Christ to be saved {Acts 16:31}, it is not a matter of one surrendering or submitting to Christ's Lordship in EXCHANGE for salvation for then salvation would be a \_\_\_\_\_, not a gift. Salvation 1st tense from sin's penalty is not an issue of behavior but of \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:3) and \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:16). Instead, it was \_\_\_\_\_ submission to God's will that took Him to the cross to die for their sins that saves a sinner. Only AFTER salvation does God want all believers to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to God as a RESULT of His mercies to them and their new position in Christ. (Rom.6:11-13; 12:1-2)
- Is the clarity of the Gospel a secondary issue or worth contending for? (Gal. 1:8-9) Is the clarity of the Gospel an issue of semantics? (1 Cor. 14:9; Prov. 30:5-6)
  - Remember that "without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins". (Heb. 9:22) Ask yourself: Is there any shedding of blood in ...
  - How does all of this apply to you? As a believer in Christ?
    - \* Let's preach a clear Gospel & don't syncretize!
    - \* Let's remember this isn't semantics!
    - \* Let's not let our pride or experience get in the way of embracing God's truth!
    - \* Let's remember the majority are usually wrong.
    - \* Let's pray for believers who are confused!
    - \* Let's keep the spotlight on Jesus Christ!
    - \* Let's evangelize the lost with the true Gospel or pure grace!
    - \* Let's establish & equip the saved with the clear Gospel of grace!
- 2) As a lost sinner w/o Christ?

Where to find a 7-minute Gospel video to share? [www.gracefortheraceministries.org/the-gospel](http://www.gracefortheraceministries.org/the-gospel)  
 Where to find clear Gospel tracts? [www.gracefortheraceministries.org](http://www.gracefortheraceministries.org)