

# The Church

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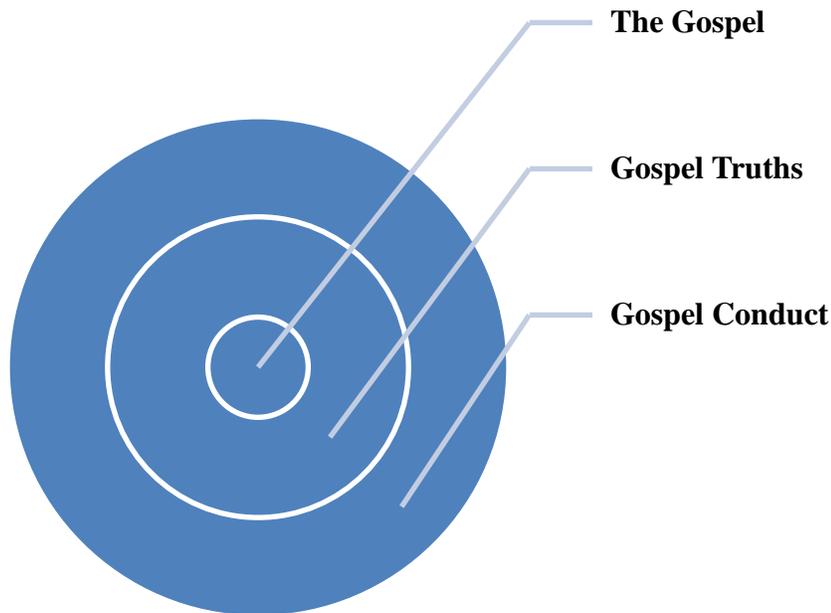
## Part 2 – The Centrality of the Gospel

### 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”

### A Biblical Paradigm



### 1. The Gospel

The Bible is a God-composed, grand narrative of His redemptive purpose in Jesus Christ. It is the unfolding of God’s plan of salvation for His people. This plan is announced as early as Genesis 3:15. From that point on the Bible tells the story of how the “seed of the woman” overcame death and Satan and restored fellowship between God and His people. The Bible may be described in these four categories:

- a) The Old Testament is Jesus prophesied.
- b) the Gospels are Jesus revealed.
- c) Acts and the Epistles are Jesus interpreted.
- d) Revelation is Jesus anticipated.

## 2. Gospel Truths

Gospel truths are not the gospel itself but doctrines that are true because of the gospel. First Timothy 1:10-11 refers to “sound doctrine” which is “in accordance with the Gospel.” the gospel is the font of these doctrines. One of the functions of doctrine is to renew our minds. Doctrine that flows from the Gospel is doctrine that will serve to shape our thinking and affections according to the Gospel.

- “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
**Romans 5:1**
- “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up *for us* all, how will he not *also* with him graciously give us all things?”  
**Romans 8:32**
- “For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”  
**Romans 6:10-11**

## 3. Gospel Conduct

One of the ways the Gospel functions in the life of the believer is by shaping conduct. Notice the gospel connections made in the following texts of Scripture:

- “Live your lives in a manner that is worthy of the Gospel.”  
**Philippians 1:27**
- “For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”  
**1 Corinthians 6:20**
- “Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”  
**Ephesians 5:25**
- “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”  
**Ephesians 5:32**
- “But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”  
**2 Corinthians 8:7-9**

### **For Further Reading:**

The Great Work of the Gospel by John Ensor

Living the Cross-Centered Life by C.J. Mahaney

The Gospel-Centered Life – a study from World Harvest Mission