

The Power of the Gospel → Union with Christ

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Eph 1:3-14; 2:8-10; 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 8:9-17

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Last Week: Two Gospel Perspectives:

Warp & Weft

- **Gospel Power** - thematically Eph 2:8-9; Col 1:27-29; 2:6-7
 - **God**—eternal, all powerful, creator of everything
 - **Sin**—humanity has all chosen self-rule over submission, in relationship, to God; the penalty for sin is death
 - **Jesus**—God incarnate came to die as a substitute for the penalty of humanity's sins
 - **Faith**—by faith in what Jesus did, not by any effort of our own, we are saved from our sins
- **Gospel Purpose** – the Gospel as a Story Eph 2:10; 2 Cor 5:15-21
Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration

The Power of the Gospel results in a Believer's Union with Christ

- 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 1:3-14
- too many experience 'the gap' between biblical truth & reality
- Gospel tells us: **who** I am; **where** I am going; **why** I am here; **what** I can hope for in the end!
- We often focus on intellectual Php 4:8 & forget practice Php 4:9
- Like church of Ephesus *Rev 2:1-4 - abandoned the love you had*
- The Gift of Faith Eph 2:8-10 places us in Union with Christ Gal 2:20

Understanding Why the Gospel Gap exists for so many

- We often rebel because Gospel Union removes autonomy and places us deeply within the life of another - Jesus Christ
- Union with Christ is the Power of the Gospel that fuels our present enjoyment of God in our lives!
- What voice in your head defines you?
 - behind every sin is a lie we believe about God
 - do you get value/worth from activity (what you do?)
 - Don't believe the DO=BE lie anymore!
- Let God define who you are: **The Gospel** 2 Cor 5:21 **Great Exchange**
- *"It is what Christ did for me that makes me right with God"*
- Union with Christ = power to kill sin in your life Rm 8:9-17 (11)
- *"this is NOT who I am anymore, I'm in Christ and Christ is in me. Jesus, help me be the person I am in your amazing grace!"*

Living the Power of the Gospel: Union with Christ

- Remember Bible is not disjointed, but God's Story of restoring humanity's union with Him! Christ is at the center!
- Look for being "in Christ" and "abiding in Jesus" Jn 15:4
- This idea displaces "self" as center, puts "Christ" at center

Gospel Identity = Power of the Gospel = Who Am I?

- Remember your Gospel IDENTITY comes now from Jesus 2 Cor 5:21 - you are 'accepted in the Beloved' Eph 1:6
- Because of the Gospel I must always remember:
 - God is Gracious – so I am freed from the anxiety because my approval is not based upon MY performance but upon Christ's!
 - God is Good – so I don't have to keep looking elsewhere for my satisfaction – Christ fulfills my every want.
 - God is Glorious – so I don't have to keep seeking approval from others because I am accepted in the Beloved!
 - God is Great – so I don't have to keep fighting to be in control, I can trust Him to work all things for my good as I rest in Him.
- What do your thoughts sound like?
 - A Conversation with self?
I will... I must... How can I...? Self-directed
 - A Conversation with God?
We will... We can... How could I if I am in you?
- Remember - the Gospel tells you that you are being conformed into the image of Jesus Rm 8:29 so continually converse with God about His agenda & your identity!

To Think About:

- briefly define the Power of the Gospel.
- how would you describe Union with Christ?
- Is your view of self primarily come from what you do or what God says about you as a result of Christ?
- what needs to change in your self-talk to help you improve your Union with Christ?
- What will you pray this week asking God to help you live in the reality of your Union with Christ?