

Gospel Centered God Seeking

THE GOSPEL AXIS

LEGALISM
RELIGION

THE
GOSPEL

RELATIVISM
IRRELIGION

_____ – teaching that asserts or the spirit that implies we can save ourselves by how we _____.

_____ – the view that it doesn't matter how we live, that God, if he exists, loves everyone the same.

_____ – neither legalism nor relativism. We are saved by faith and grace alone.

The gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, but something else entirely – a third way of relating to God through grace. Because of this, we seek Him in a uniquely balanced way that avoids the errors of either extreme and faithfully communicates the sharpness of the gospel.

The Gospel – a _____ about how we have been _____ from peril. The background of this word "gospel" is like a news report about some life-altering event that has already happened.

The Gospel is:

- Good news, not good _____.
- Good news announcing that we have been _____ or saved.
- News about what has been done by Jesus Christ to put right our relationship with God. (Change of status. John 3:14.)
- Is not the result of the gospel.
- Has two equal and opposite enemies. Jesus was crucified between 2 thieves:
 - _____ and _____

THE GOSPEL HAS CHAPTERS:

CHAPTERS GOSPEL NARRATIVE GOSPEL TRUTHS		
CHAPTERS	GOSPEL NARRATIVE	GOSPEL TRUTHS
Chapter 1	Where did we come from?	From God: The One and the relational
Chapter 2	Why did things go wrong?	Because of sin: bondage and condemnation
Chapter 3	What will put things right?	Christ: incarnation, substitution, restoration
Chapter 4	How can I be put right?	Through faith: grace and trust

THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

We are saved by _____ the gospel, and then we are _____ in every part of our minds, hearts, and lives by believing the gospel more and more deeply as life goes on.

The power of the gospel comes in two movements. It first says, “I am more sinful and flawed than I ever dared,” but then quickly follows with, “I am more accepted and loved than I ever dared hope.

RELIGION	THE GOSPEL
I obey, therefore I am accepted	I'm accepted, therefore I obey
Motivation is based on fear and insecurity	Motivation is based on grateful joy
I obey God in order to get things from God	I obey God to get God-to delight and resemble Him
When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself, since I believe, like Job's friends, that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life	When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle, but I know that while God may allow this for my training, he will exercise his fatherly love within my trial.
When I am criticized, I am furious or devastated because it is essential for me to think of myself as a "good person." Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.	When I am criticized, I struggle, but it is not essential for me to think of myself as a "good person." My identity is not built on my performance but on God's love for me in Christ.
My prayer life consists largely of petition and only heats up when I am in need. My main purpose in prayer is to control circumstances.	My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with him.
My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to people who fail. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel humble but not confidentI feel like a failure.	My self-view is not based on a view of myself as a moral achiever. In Christ I am at once sinful and lost, yet accepted. I am so bad he had to die for me, and so loved he was glad to die for me. This leads me to deeper humility as well as deeper confidence, without either sniveling or swaggering.

RELIGION	THE GOSPEL
<p>My identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work or how moral I am, so I must look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral. I disdain and feel superior to others</p>	<p>My identity and self-worth are centered on the One who died for his enemies, including me. Only by sheer grace am I what I am, so I can't look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. I have no inner need to win arguments.</p>
<p>Since I look to my pedigree or performance for my spiritual acceptability, my heart manufactures idols-talents, moral record, personal discipline, social status, etc. I absolutely have to have them, so they are my main hope, meaning, happiness, security, and significance, whatever I say I believe about God.</p>	<p>I have many good things in my life-family, work, etc., but none of these good things are ultimate things to me. I don't absolutely have to have them, so there is a limit to how much anxiety, bitterness, and despair they can inflict on me when they are threatened and lost.</p>