

## The Gospel and the Heart

- **Week 1:** Discuss "The Centrality of the Gospel" - Tim Keller, PART 1: Implications & Applications, p. 1-4
  - Questions:
    1. What impacted you most from the article? What were your major take-aways?
    2. Was anything confusing or difficult to understand?
    3. How is the gospel "bigger" than you may have previously thought?
    4. What are the 2 "thieves" of the gospel? Which are you more prone toward?
    5. Discuss how having a moralistic view, a hedonistic view, or a gospel view of life would:
      - 1) Affect how you relate to difficult people (parents, friends, children)?
      - 2) Affect your generosity with your money or help the poor?
      - 3) Affect your reaction to being wronged or really hurt by someone like your spouse?
    6. What is a an area of life where you'd like the gospel to better take root and change you?
  - **Homework:** Read "The Centrality of the Gospel" -Tim Keller, PART 2: The Key to Everything, p. 5ff
    - Choose 2 of the "Approach's" (1 from each section) and come prepared to share how having a moralistic view, a hedonistic view, or a gospel view of life affects that situation.
- **Week 2:** Discuss "The Centrality of the Gospel" - Tim Keller, PART 2: The Key to Everything, p. 5-9
  - Questions:
    1. What impacted you most from Part 2? What were your major take-aways?
    2. Did any of these "approach's" hit close to home personally? How did it encourage you?
    3. Go around and share about the 2 "Approach's" you chose (from the homework). Share how having a moralistic, a hedonistic, or a gospel view of life affects that situation.
    4. If time allows, think of a personal struggle or issue and talk through how having a moralistic, a hedonistic, or a gospel view of life changes how you deal with it.
    5. What is a major take-away from this article?
  - **Homework:**
    - Read "The Gospel-Centered Life - Part 1 - The Gospel Grid"
    - Read "The Gospel-Centered Life - Part 2 - Pretending & Performing"
    - Read "The Gospel-Centered Life - Part 3 - Believing the Gospel"
- **Week 3:** Discuss "The Gospel-Centered Life - Parts 1-3"
  - Questions:
    1. What impacted you most from Part 1 - The Gospel Grid?
    2. Which "way of minimizing sin" do you most relate with (from p. 4)
    3. What impacted you from Part 2 - Pretending and Performing?
    4. How do you relate with the urge to pretend or perform?
    5. Which "righteousness" from p. 8-9 do you most relate with personally?
    6. Read Romans 3:21-22; 4:4-8 and describe in your own words what Christ's "passive" righteousness means and the implications for us.
    7. Read Romans 8:14-17 and 1 John 3:1-2 and describe what our sonship means and the implications for us.
    8. Share any of the "orphan" mentalities you feel most apply to you. Which on the son/daughter list do you most long to believe and live out?
  - Homework: Read "How Christ Changes Us By His Grace" - Tim Lane & Paul Tripp

- **Week 4:** Read "How Christ Changes Us By His Grace" - Tim Lane & Paul Tripp
  - Questions:
    1. What impacted you most from the article? What were your major take-aways?
    2. How might your view of what needs to be changed in your life differ from God's view?
    3. How does focusing on eternity enable us to change, to become more Christ-like?
    4. How does understanding and remembering our union with Christ enable us to change?
    5. How is our connection to other believers in community crucial to real change?
    6. Define what "Heat," "Thorns," "Cross," and "Fruit" each represent?
    7. How can these help you apply the gospel and see change in a difficult situation?
    8. Do a case study in one of your lives where you talk through this together.
      - 1) HEAT: What's a situation, current difficulty or hardship? It could be from someone sinning against you or simply life.
      - 2) THORNS: What sin is entangling you? What potential sinful feelings, thoughts, words or actions?
      - 3) CROSS: How does the work of Christ and your new identity in Christ apply to these "heat" and "thorns"? How does God's abundant grace give perspective?
      - 4) FRUIT: What fruit of the Spirit or righteousness does God want to see in you? How might you respond differently to the heat and thorns in light of the cross and God's grace?