

**GOSPEL 101**  
November 26, 2023  
Gospel Themes – Adoption

**REVIEW**

Tim Keller: The main problem, then, in the Christian life is that we have not thought out the deep implications of the gospel, we have not “used” the gospel in and on all parts of our life... All of us, to some degree live around the truth of the gospel but do not “get” it. So the key to continual and deeper spiritual renewal and revival is the continual re-discovery of the gospel.<sup>1</sup>

**GOSPEL THIEVES**

THIEF 1 - Moralism / Religion - we must obey in order to be saved/blessed.

THIEF 2 - Relativism / Irreligion - we are all accepted by God, and we decide what is true for us.

**THIEF 3 – MY IDOLS: Jesus + X = Happy**

The question is not if you have idols, it’s in what particular order they matter to you.

- What am I adding to Jesus to be happy?
- How do I buy into the lies of the Evil One when I am tempted in my recurring sin?
- What good things am I using because I have an inordinate desire for something deeper?
- How would I rank the core idols (power, comfort, approval, control) in order of importance to me in this season of my life?
- How does the finished work of Jesus connect to my core idols today? What do I see Him losing so that I can rest and rejoice in Him whether I have my idols on earth or not?

**OKAY, NOW WHAT?<sup>2</sup> THREE WAYS TO DEAL WITH MY IDOLS**

1. Moralizing Approach– “Your problem is that what you’re doing is wrong. Repent!”  
Emphasis: Behavior / Doing
2. Psychologizing Approach – “Your problem is that you aren’t experiencing that God loves you. Rejoice!”  
Emphasis: Feelings / Being
3. Gospel Approach - Your basic problem is that you are looking to something in addition to Christ and have made it your source of true happiness. You have been worshipping an idol. Repent **and** rejoice that you may rest in the finished work of Christ for you!

Jesus – X = For me

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from Tim Keller’s article “The Centrality of the Gospel”. Available in pdf by request. Send me an email at nperegoy@oflc.net.

<sup>2</sup> Excerpts from Tim Keller’s *Gospel in Life* home study, p.43ff. The entire chapter is fantastic, and I recommend that you read it slowly for yourself if this session’s content is resonating for you. It’s available in pdf by request. Send me an email.

## GOSPEL THEMES - ADOPTION

### FAR FROM HOME

READ GENESIS 3:20-24

You might say that...

The deepest \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts are an ache for home.

All of our \_\_\_\_\_, all of our misplaced longings (idolatry), all of our misbehavior is an attempt to simulate a feeling of home that escapes our grasp.

CS Lewis says about our attempts to build a better home for ourselves in "The Weight of Glory."

Our lifelong nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside is the truest index of our real situation. **We are all exiles, always longing for home.** We are always traveling, never arriving. The houses and families we actually inhabit are only inns along the way, but they aren't home. **Home continues to evade us."**

### WHO DO I BELONG TO?

1. A good \_\_\_\_\_ - Vertical  
*Longings for a good father*

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ – Horizontal

"No one can have God as his Father who does not have the church for his mother."  
Cyprian of Carthage, 3<sup>rd</sup> century

"The church is not a natural organization."<sup>3</sup>

### HOW DOES GOD ADOPT ME?

\_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT STATUS DOES THAT GIVE ME?

#### **The Second Article: Redemption**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned

<sup>3</sup> As far as I know, this is attributed to Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller.

person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Underline the words above that describe this.

Galatians 4:4-7 - <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Romans 8:14-17 - <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons<sup>[f]</sup> of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Circle the words above that describe this.

### **WHERE ELSE DO I LOOK FOR MY IDENTITY?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – The narrative for identity formation found in traditional cultures with an emphasis on the community and honor for one’s family. For example, if your father was a farmer, you brought honor to your family as you inherited the family business and carried on the family’s legacy. Conversely, you brought shame and dishonor to your family by subverting this dynamic. The journey starts by looking outside to discover the values of your surroundings and suppressing one’s inner desires in order to be accepted by the community.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – The narrative for identity formation found in Western cultures with an emphasis on the autonomy of the individual. The heroes celebrated by our culture are those who have discovered and authentically expressed their true self. The journey starts as we go inside to discover who we are. Once the true self is identified the community is expected to suppress their values in order to accept this true self.

What’s wrong with both?

They \_\_\_\_\_ – they change

They’re \_\_\_\_\_ – they’re subjective

They’re \_\_\_\_\_ – they can’t hold the weight

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Mark 1:9-11

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – “you are my son”
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – “whom I love”
3. \_\_\_\_\_ – “with you I am well pleased”

### **WRAP UP: HOW DOES ADOPTION SPEAK TO THE DEEPEST LONGINGS OF MY HEART?**

Home – a place to be you, not a different version of you

Belonging – fitting in, connected to others

Identity – a status that God gives you, one you neither earn nor discover

### **QUESTIONS?**

### **PREVIEW**

Gospel Themes – Known, Covenant, Kingdom