

H3

Session 20
Soteriology
Getting the Gospel Right

Decisionalism

Charles Finney
Pray a prayer, walk an aisle
Revivalism

Cultural identification

Well, I'm not a Muslim or a Hindu
Born and raised at GBC
Christian music, Christian school, Christian friends, Christian dog

Heritage

My parents are Christians.

Sacramentalism

Grace is received through religious ceremony.

Human Merit

Heaven is achieved by human accomplishment
(this is every religion except Biblical Christianity)

Deliverance Gospel

"Power Evangelism"
deliverance from physical ailments, diseases, demonic influence.
Third Wave, John Wimber and others.

Liberation Gospel

The good news is that message which frees one from political and economic oppression.
The poor and oppressed are the
Matthew 5:1-12
Gustavo Gutiérrez, *A Theology of Liberation*, 1972
www.liberationtheology.org

Gospel of temporal happiness

Come to Jesus to fix your marriage, fix your finances, fix your kids, fix your sex life, better your health, better your relationships, etc.

Humanitarian Gospel

The good news is helping the poor.
This is the Gospel according to Bono.



God is my girlfriend / Jesus is my homeboy gospel

“We have emphasized our relationship with God in a way that can’t carry the weight of God’s holiness.” – Ed Welch *Addictions* 150.

What do we see in Scripture when people come into contact with the uncloaked presence of the Living God? Buddies?

Gospel of self-esteem. (Schuller)

“The most serious sin is the one that causes me to say, ‘I am unworthy. I may have no claim to divine son ship if you examine me at my worst.’ For once a person believes he is an ‘unworthy sinner,’ it is doubtful if he can really honestly accept the saving grace God offers in Jesus Christ.” 98

“The kingdom of God is that invisible collection of committed Christians that transcends cultures, ideologies, nationalistic prejudices, and creeds – all bound by the golden commitment to say nothing and do nothing that would attack the self-esteem, the self-respect, and the dignity of any other human being, whether or not they are committed members of the kingdom of God. The dignity of the person then is the irreducible cell of true Christianity. No theology of salvation, no theology of the church, no theology of sin and repentance and regeneration and sanctification and discipleship, can be regarded as authentically Christian if it does not begin with and continue to keep its focus on the right of every person to be treated with honor, dignity, and respect. At the same time, any creed, any biblical interpretation, and any systematic theology that assaults and offends the self-esteem of persons is heretically failing to be truly Christian no matter how interlaced, interfaced, or undergirded it might be with biblical references.” 135-36.

“The pearl of great price [is] genuine self-respect and self-esteem!” 71

Gospel without repentance?

Gospel without lordship?

See Zane Hodges *Absolutely Free*.

Gospel without love for Jesus?

Gospel without God?

If it doesn’t deal with sin and its remedy, it is not gospel.

If it only deals with sin, and does not bring us to God, it is not gospel.

If it does not address the mind, the affections, and the will, it is not the gospel.

We need to preach the gospel clearly enough for it to be rejected by the unregenerate.

Whatever you “hook” people with is what you’ll have to use to sustain them.

Mt19:21

Can people be born again who hear imperfect gospel proclamation?

Contend for the Gospel!



Resources:

Morris *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*

Murray *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied*

Owen *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*

Packer and Dever *In My Place Condemned He Stood*

Piper *God Is The Gospel*

White *The God Who Justifies*

Zemek *A Biblical Theology of the Doctrines of Sovereign Grace*