

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself - Week 6

Me, the Gospel, and Others

Premise - The deeper I go into the Gospel message, the more I desire to love others in the way God intends.

These ‘others’ consist of 3 primary groups:

- Everyone
- Fellow Christians
- Unbelievers

How does God intend me to love everyone?

- I am to be stimulated to love others as I reflect on the love God has shown me (Titus 3:1-8)
- I am to stand ready to forgive others as I realize how much grace God has shown me
 - Eph. 4:32
 - Col. 3:12-13

How does God intend me to love fellow Christians?

- I am to be increasing in affection for those laboring with me in the Gospel
 - I want to encourage them as I see God at work in their lives
 - Paul’s example in Philippians 1:3-7
 - These fellow Christians are my partners in the Gospel!
- I realize that the Gospel is the best way for me to encourage other believers
 - This is “speaking truth” to them
 - I realize I don’t just love them because of the Gospel; I love them with the Gospel
 - This is not limited to words only!
 - I can live out the Gospel in every way that I relate to them
- I recognize that there is unity in the Gospel message
 - The Gospel is a message of reconciliation among all believers!
 - Eph. 2:14-19
 - Col. 3:11
 - Gal. 3:28
 - We are all members of God’s household
 - We are all part of each other’s inheritance (Eph. 1:18)
 - Each of us is able to play a part in the other’s gospel narrative (Eph. 3:17-19; 2 Tim 2:22)
 - God designed us to be in relationship with one another!
- Here are some questions to ask myself to stimulate growth:
 - **What does my lifestyle say about how much I value the church?**
 - These are the people Christ died to reconcile and bring together!
 - **What does my lifestyle say about how much I value the role I play in others’ lives?**
 - God’s design has me in relationship with others for mutual encouragement and growth
 - **What does my lifestyle say about how much I value the role others play in my life?**
 - I should allow others ‘in’ to be a blessing to me and so I can be a blessing to them (“Living life together”)

- We are unified and one body despite any factors that the world would say separates us
 - Race
 - Economic status
 - Other social barriers

How does God intend me to love unbelievers?

- I am to be increasing in my burden for unbelievers to experience the awesomeness of the Gospel
 - As I realize how blessed I am each day, I ought to want these blessings for those around me who are outside of Christ
 - This is the dynamic of Paul's life
 - As he rehearses the Gospel truths in Romans 5-8
 - Romans 5 – Paul focuses on the believer's righteous standing before God
 - Romans 6 – Paul speaks of the freedom from sin that Christ has bought us
 - Romans 7 – Paul reflects on the ongoing battle with sin in his own life
 - Romans 8 – Paul rejoices that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus
 - **What is Paul's response by the time he gets to Romans 9?**

I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. (Rom. 9:2-3)

- **Why?**
 - Because his fellow Jews did not believe the Gospel
 - He knew exactly what they were missing out on and the eternal implications of it

Does meditating on the Gospel like this increase my burden for the lost?

How do we balance rehearsing the Gospel for the purpose of being encouraged and for the purpose of being challenged in this way? Are they mutually exclusive?

Summary of Application

Preaching the Gospel to myself ought to cause me to desire to love others in the way God intends. Examples of this love include, but are not limited to:

- Loving others radically
- Speaking Gospel truths to my friends
- Being intentional in my relationships with other believers
- Having an increased burden for unbelievers to know the Gospel