

Good News!

Ross Parsley – July 27, 2014

John 3:16 (NIV) *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Gospel means “**Good News.**”

Good News: we no longer have to be separated from God by sin.

- Embraced in a love relationship with God.
- Free from the penalty of sin and separation from God, which is death.
- Empowered to live in the authority, grace, and truth of resurrection life.

We reconnect to the source of life by responding to God’s love with:

1. Repentance: turning away from sin and toward God.

We refuse to live independently and choose to live dependent on God. Repentance is the most positive word in the Bible.

God always responds to genuine repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV) *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

2. Belief: entering into a trusting relationship based on grace and faith.

We live in a way that shapes our lives around what Christ has done.

We live in response to, and expectancy of, a vibrant, life giving relationship with God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

3. Surrender: giving up our will and choosing God’s will.

Not our daily decision-making, but the function of our will in its entirety.

Surrender means to give up every part of our independence.

Mark 8:35 (NIV) *For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.*

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV) *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

- Spiritual influences are active.
- People's minds are blinded by these spiritual influences.
- The light of the gospel displays Christ, who shows us what God looks like.

In sharing the Good News, we must be:

1. Strategic – we are in a spiritual war for the souls of people.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV) *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Pray specifically and **plan** intentionally to share Christ with others.

2. Symbolic – we are bringing heaven into earth, displaying God's love and power.

Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV) *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Demonstrate the love of Christ in tangible and practical ways.

3. Subversive – we are undermining the kingdom of self and establishing the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-3 (NIV) *When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.*

Trust that God is working behind the scenes—as Jesus did with parables.