

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

**MAIN IDEA:** Living the Gospel involves a wholehearted commitment to making Christ beautiful in our lives and the lives of others.

**SINGLE FOCUS MISSION STATEMENT:** The Single Focus ministry exists to help single young adults find and follow Jesus by knowing, loving, living, and giving the gospel to the glory of God.

- **Living the gospel:** have a commitment to adorn Christ and His work through holy living and humble service.

**INTRO:** We have learned that we are to KNOW the Gospel, to meditate and soak up the realities of its truth in our lives. We are to LOVE the Gospel, to never get over this amazing grace that has rescued us from our sin and made us a child of God through Christ. But now, here comes the hard work — we have got to LIVE it.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Counseling my first summer at the WILDS: During Staff Training week they taught us “how” to counsel—we received knowledge, “how-to’s,” help sheets. But after a week it was time to put it into action. The “knowledge” was no good unless it resulted in action.

*If our knowledge and love for the Gospel never results in action, something is wrong. You either do not have the real Gospel or you are in rebellion. Because the Gospel will produce action!*

**QUESTION:** How can we live the Gospel?

**TRANSITION:** There are two realities that are true of one who is living the Gospel.

### I. CHRIST-CENTERED COMMITMENT

“Have a commitment to adorn Christ and His work”

#### A. INVOLVES BEING COMMITTED

Deuteronomy 13:4 – “You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.”

- Living the Gospel involves work, effort. You must be committed to this task.
- What does it take to stop you?
  - Fear
  - Failure
  - People
  - Laziness
  - Heartache
- We must be committed.

### B. INVOLVES ADORNING CHRIST

- We must be committed to adorning Christ!
- This is central to the life of a believer.
  - Galatians 6:14 – boasting in nothing except the cross of Christ
  - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – living for Christ alone
  - Colossians 3:17 – do everything in the name of Christ
  - Colossians 1:16-19 – “For by him [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”
- It’s all about Christ!
- “Adorn” – make more beautiful or attractive

- **ILLUSTRATION:** The Indianapolis Mormon Temple: You can only go in right after they have built it and before they cleanse it. The temple is massive and extravagant. It is a very expensive building. There is a room called the “Celestial Room,” designed for Mormons to come to and meditate and feel heavenly. There are paintings and chandeliers and marble. The builders “adorned” this room. They wanted to make this room beautiful.
- **APPLICATION:** Christian, when someone walks into your life, what do they see? Are they mesmerized and awed at the sight of Christ. Is He made beautiful when they look at you? Or are you living to adorn yourself, to make yourself look beautiful?

What does a commitment to adorning Christ in my life mean? It means that I want my life to make Christ look beautiful and attractive. I want to lift Him up with my life. I want believers to say, “Christ is worth it,” when they see my life. I want the lost to say, “I want Him,” when they look at me. My life should be all about making Christ beautiful!

**TRANSITION:** Living the Gospel involves the reality of a Christ-Centered Commitment, but it also involves the reality of a Cross-Centered Lifestyle.

## II. CROSS-CENTERED LIFESTYLE

“through holy living and humble service”

### A. INVOLVES LIVING HOLY

1 Peter 1:15-16 – “But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

## • EXAMPLE

### FAILURE

- Brett in Elementary – Well I have to do this and that so I can be holy, so I can be a good kid. By doing this and that I can then be favored by God. If I do holy things God likes me more.

### FAILURE

- Brett in his early 20’s – You know I have failed in this area time after time after time, but God is going to forgive me so I can fail again and enjoy my sin.

### VICTORY

- I remember the message I heard that broke me: I learned that, yes, I am forever favored by God in Christ. Nothing I can do will ever earn me anything with Him. I am in Jesus Christ. But those who are in Jesus Christ must pursue holiness! It’s not an option!

- Pursuing holiness is not some “overbearing” rule that we have to do because we are no-fun Christians. Pursuing holiness is a joy-filled response of someone who has an identity in Christ and longs to be like his/her Savior.

1 Peter 2:9-10 – “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

- **APPLICATION:** There is no greater motivation to pursue holiness than to remember who you are in Christ Jesus. Are you pursuing holiness today? Are you excusing any sin in your life? Are you holding on to an immoral relationship? Are you using your tongue to destroy someone else’s reputation? Are you desiring to be accepted by the world?

A fresh look at the cross leaves us with no excuse, but rather with the motivation to be holy.

## B. INVOLVES SERVING HUMBLY

Philippians 2:1-8 – count others more significant than yourself; be more concerned with others interests or things  
→ Have the mind of Christ:

- He didn't use the "I'm above this" card.
  - He emptied himself.
  - He became a servant.
  - He took on human form.
  - He obeyed unto death.
  - He died the most shameful death.
  - There is no room for pride in the Gospel. It shatters pride.
  - Because of what Christ has done for us, we must serve those around us with humility.
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Men helping when we put the tent up for Jamboree (ie. Tony Garrett, Ken Tooky, Lee Williams) — To them, service is the least they can do, for their Savior.
  - **APPLICATION:** Living the Gospel involves serving humbly. Are you looking for the needs of others around you? Is your agenda more important than Christ's work? How are you planning to get plugged in to this ministry? Are others more important in your eyes than yourself?

***We need Christ in order to live holy and serve humbly.***

**CONCLUSION:** Living the Gospel involves the reality of a Christ-Centered Commitment of adorning Christ above everything else. It involves a Cross-Centered Lifestyle that pursues holiness and serves others with humility. Are these the realities of your life?