



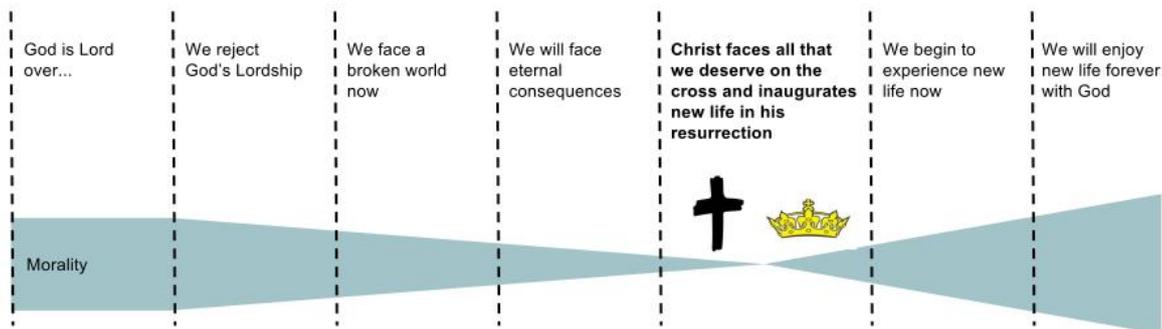
EVERYDAY GOSPEL

How the Gospel answers
the human heart

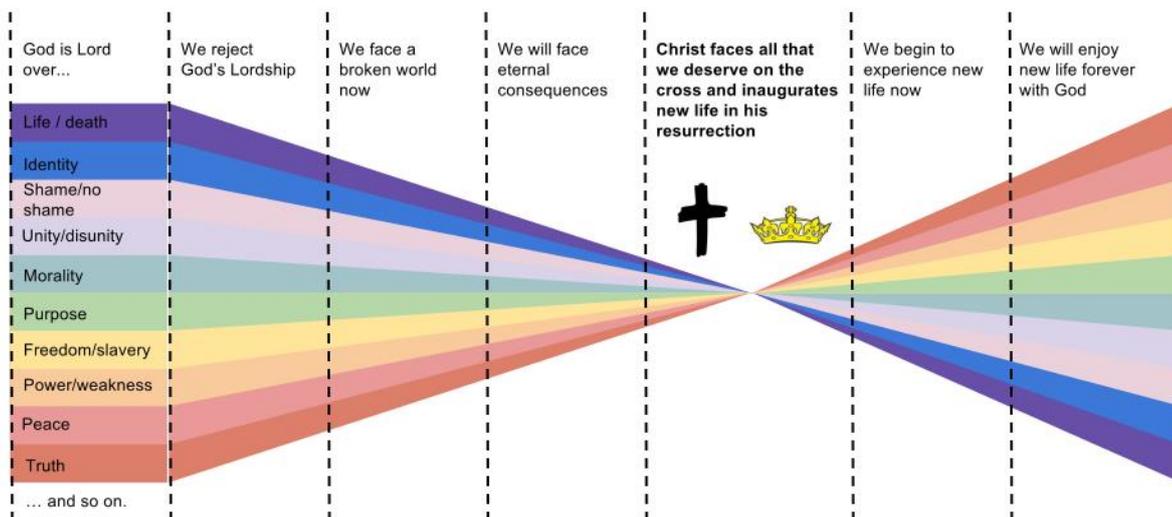
Talk 1 - the scope of the gospel

What does it mean to say that the gospel is about *all* of life?

The gospel as we know it:



The scope of the gospel in Scripture:



Four propositions

1. The Bible has a number of strands that run from Genesis to Revelation, and on these strands, it hangs the gospel.
2. Underneath, every passage in Scripture has a model of the gospel underlying it.
3. There is one God and one gospel. These are strands of a single rope. Or, these are facets of a single gospel diamond, with Jesus Christ, dying to turn aside the wrath of God and rising to new life at its heart.
4. Seeing these different facets of the gospel allows us to take the central gospel truths and apply them to our lives.

Examples in Scripture

Mark 1: 14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Ephesians 6:15, "The gospel of peace."

Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one!"

How this helps us

1. Understanding the Bible.
2. Seeing how individual passages fit into the Bible's grand story.
3. My service is gospel service.
4. Options in evangelism
5. My own testimony

Three conclusions – the gospel...

- Is only an inch from all of life
- Deals with the deepest issues of the human heart
- Brings glory to God

Talk 2 – ashamed and unashamed

A difficult talk

We don't want to talk about shame.

It feeds our addictions and it paralyses us.

Genesis – the fear of being exposed

Genesis 2:25 (First reference to shame, and nakedness, in the Bible) The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Psalms 69:7 (an example of public shame): For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face.

Revelation 16:15 (Nakedness is a picture of shame right at the end of the Bible) "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

Genesis 3:1-10 (Satan's lie) Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

The rest of the Old Testament – shame is confused

Ezekiel 36:32 (Shame is a national as well as a personal problem) I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel!

Feeling false shame

Ezekiel 13:17,22-23 (The gurus of our age confuse our sense of shame.) "Now, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who prophesy out of their own imagination. Prophesy against them... 'Because you disheartened the righteous with your lies, when I had brought them no grief, and because you encouraged the wicked not to turn from their evil ways and so save their lives, therefore you will no longer see false visions or practise divination...'

Denying true shame

Jeremiah 8:9,11-12 (Shame no longer restrains us.) 9 The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?... 11 They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. 12 Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush.

Our hope – God will end shame forever

Joel 2:27 (God will end shame) Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.

The gospel overcomes shame

Heb 9:9 (The old testament could not deal with our shame.) The gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshipper.

I have been exposed

Col 2:13-15 (Jesus' very public death) When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

I have been killed

Colossians 3:1-4 (We died and we have new life.) Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

I have been raised

So...

- God is not ashamed of us

Heb 2:10-11 (God is not ashamed of us.) In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. *So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.* (Emphasis added)

- Satan is exposed
- False shame versus conviction?
- Creating a new world together

Covered at last

Rev 7: After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Talk 3 – Oneness and fragmentation

“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

“Humans weren't individuals, they are, each one, a committee. Some members of the committee were dark and red and entirely uncivilised. And the bit that did the joined up thinking had to fight, in the darkness of the brain, for the casting vote.”

Terry Pratchett – the Thief of Time

God is one, the rest is in pieces

One but not the same

“Let us create man in our own image... Male and female he created them.” *Gen 1:26,27*

One under authority

“And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

John 8:29

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife[a] is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. *1 Corinthians 11:3*

...[God's] purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. *Ephesians 1:9-10*

But we rejected God as head

“You will be like God...” *Genesis 3:5*

From [Jesus] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. *Ephesians 4:16, NIV*

Our response?

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ...Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” *Gen 11:1,4*

- The ‘Steve Jobs’ response
- Oppression

The rest of the Old Testament – polytheism

6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

9 And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the Lord commanded. 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this has been

your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.” *1 Kings 11*

15 The word of the Lord came to me: 16 “Son of man, take a stick and write on it, ‘For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.’ 17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. 18 And when your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what you mean by these?’ 19 say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand. 20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. 23 They shall not defile themselves any more with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backsliding in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. *Ezekiel 37*

Everyone who is ...covetous (that is, an idolater)... *Ephesians 5:5*

- An open relationship with God
- But idols take

The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry. *Isaiah 44:12*

And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. *Leviticus 18:12*

- This is postmodernism
- It hurts because idols are gods

“Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.” *Hosea 6:1*

- and we live in a broken world

God is torn apart and we are made one

The ultimate tearing apart

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” *Mark 15:34*

The start of a new oneness

- One with God

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." *Luke 10*

- One with myself

Open up to the Lord what you are doing, and your plans will be established. *Proverbs 16:3*

- One with God's people

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. *Ephesians 4*

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." 17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. *Rev 22*

Talk 4 – Fear and fearlessness

There is no fear of God before their eyes

Do you fear God?

We should fear God

In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ...

4 “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

4 myths that Luke 12:4-7 dispels

- It is only old testament
- It is only for people who are not Christians
- It means respect
- It is opposed to love

Why fear God?

“He feared man so little because he feared God so much.”

What is the fear of God?

In the Old Testament

1) God is fearsome

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat[d] of it you shall surely die.” *Genesis 2:16-17*

2) God is about to judge me

But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” *Genesis 3:9-10*

Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” *Exodus 20:20*

3) Moments of God-confronting terror

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” *Isaiah 6*

In the New Testament

General commands to fear:

- Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. 2 Corinthians 5:11
- Let us cleanse ourselves ... in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1
- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12
- Fear God. 1 Peter 2:17

Moments of fear

- Annanias and Sapphira
- John and Jesus

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash round his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” *Revelation 1*

How do we fear God?

Answer: the gospel!

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” 8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. *Mark 16*

- He can,
- He will,
- And there is nothing that we can do to stop him

Going to the place where we know that we have only God to fear.

An illustration: Genesis 15

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

7 And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon." 10 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

- God enters the darkness
- God is a light in the darkness
- God takes the curses on himself

So?

1) Face your fear honestly

2) Face God, who is fearsome

3) Face the cross and resurrection

4) Face outwards

