

ORIENTATION SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAMS

DISCUSSION NO. 1

“Is the Gospel Big Enough”

Some churches have a small understanding of the gospel.

Churches may be tempted to think the message of the gospel is irrelevant to the problem of race relations or that racism is a “**social issue**”, instead of a “**gospel issue**”. But this impulse reveals a small understanding of the gospel. (Jarvis Williams)

- How is the gospel relevant to the subject of race relation and racism?
- Is racism a social issue or a gospel issue?

The church needs a deeper understanding of the gospel.

The church has the greatest impact on society when Christians have a deep personal understanding of and appreciation for the gospel, so as to be able to embrace and live out the expression of the gospel daily. Critical to achieving this aim is making clear the connection between the gospel and its **doctrinal** and **behavioral** implications. We could call these “*Gospel Truths*” and “*Gospel Conduct*”.

- Please summarize and personalize the above statements.
- How does the bible spell out “Gospel Conduct” or “Gospel Behavior for the Believer”?

➤ **Six Essential “Gospel Truths” (I Cor. 15:1-4), by John Piper.**

- 1) A Plan. According to the scripture. Setup before it happened.
- 2) Event in History. “Christ died for our sins.”
- 3) Achievement. Something happened between the Father and the Son; A perfect sin offering was rendered.
- 4) It was extended. It was extended to the world as a free gift. (John 3:16)
- 5) Application. By faith I am justified, redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, and one day glorified.
- 6) God. To bring us to God; to know Him; to love Him; to be satisfied in Him; to be more and more glorified in Him.

➤ **Essential “Gospel Conducts” to be considered.**

- 1) Repentance. (Luke 19:1-9)
- 2) Proclamation of the gospel. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- 3) Demonstration. (Eph. 4:1; Col. 1:10 Gal. 6:10)
- 4) Love God; Love Neighbor. (Matt. 22:37-40)
- 5) Lament with those hurting. (Rom. 12:15)
- 6) Live Justly; Live Mercifully; Walk Humbly. (Micah 6:8; Phil. 2:5)
- 7) Live as a peacemaker. (Matt 5:9)

The Gospel is Big Enough!

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