

As ambassadors of reconciliation, our message is “God’s not holding your sins against you.” *Jesus died for their sins, but we are not treating sin, we are treating fallen-image-bearers, humans.*

D. Why does Paul speak about clothing ourselves?



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LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.



Gospel Clarity: What is the Gospel? Why Do We Need It?

Jerry Cisar — February 11, 2024

Texts: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-8; Hab. 2:14; Rom. 3:23-24

Introduction: The Gospel is a Story of Glory

Why were we created? *To glorify God by displaying His glory to the rest of creation as we bear his image and likeness.*

The problem which the Gospel solves is not first human sin; *it is a glory deficit.* Because all have sinned, they (lit.) *were lacking* the glory of God.

I. Filling the earth with glory was the mission.

How will the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea?

A. God created us to bear His image and likeness to all creation.

B. For humans to properly rule over creation requires that we bear God’s glory, not our own (Psalm 8:5-8).

God shared His glory with humans by crowning them with glory and honor.

If we are to rule in God’s image and likeness it will never be by ruling like the kings of this earth, but by servant leadership.

When Adam and Eve were told to fill the earth and subdue it, it meant they were *they were to expand the sphere of God’s benevolent reign until all creation became a paradise.*

II. Lacking glory for the mission

A. The moment Adam and Eve rejected God as King, they lacked the glory necessary for filling the earth with glory.

i. Exhibit 1: Cain's question.

ii. Exhibit 2: The flood in Noah's time (Gen. 6:5, 11-12)

iii. Exhibit 3: Babel (Gen. 11)

B. Examples of God's setting out on *glory reclamation projects*:

i. Exhibit 1: Noah (Gen. 9:1-7)

ii. Exhibit 2: Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)

iii. Exhibit 3: Israel (Exo. 19:4-6)

III. Lifted to glory in Christ again

A. The gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.
(2 Cor. 4:4-6)

B. Unless sin is dealt with in our redemption there can be no restoration to glory.

i. Galatians 3:13-14

ii. Redemption makes glory restoration possible.

a) 2 Corinthians 3:15, 18

Forgiveness of sins removes a blinding veil from our eyes so we can now be transformed into His image with increasing glory!

b) Exodus 34:6-7

IV. Filling the earth with glory is the mission again.

A. The great commission is to recruit and train image-bearers in the King's name. (Matt. 28:18-20)

The church is a training community for image-bearers in the King's name.

B. We are Christ's ambassadors. We are to treat unbelievers as Christ treated them.

C. Dr. Paul Brand: "We are treating a person not a disease. That is the true meaning of rehabilitation."