

# Teaching - Part 1

## The Gospel is Beautiful & True Metanarrative

- The Gospel is **Metanarrative**
  - All of humanity, in every place, for all of time
  - The gospel reveals and exalts Christ throughout a narrative arc
- The Gospel is **Beautiful** to the Heart
  - Transformation is deeper than Information
  - *Don't you long for this story to be true?*
- The Gospel is **True** to the Mind
  - John Piper, "Blind faith is no faith at all"
  - *Don't you believe/trust/know (pistis) this to be true?*

## The Gospel Reveals the Nature and Character of God

- Gospel **Themes** connect with different people, places and times
- The Gospel *evangelizes* and *disciples* – directional, not positional

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## Gospel Meta-Themes (as outlined by Timothy Keller)

Home & Exile Covenant Kingdom	Rest/Sabbath; Justice/Shalom; Trinity/Community Nakedness/Righteousness; Marriage/Faithfulness; Presence/Sanctuary Image/Likeness; Freedom/Idolatry; Word/Wisdom
Incarnation <b>Atonement*</b> Resurrection	“Upside-Down” “Inside-Out” “Forward-Back”

### *\*Atonement Themes:*

Battlefield	He defeats our enemies
Marketplace	He pays our debts
Exile	He comes to us//brings us to Himself
Temple	He purifies our sins
Court	He takes our punishment

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## The Great Command is an Invitation to *Agape*

- Invitation is God's primary love language
  - "Come" may be God's favorite word
- *Agape* is an utterly distinct experience of love
  - CS Lewis – *eros, storge, phileo, agape*
- Gospel Appeals/Invitations (Keller)
  - Fear of Judgment/Death; Freedom from Guilt/Shame; Appreciation of Truth/Beauty; Satisfaction of Soul Longings; Help with a Problem, Need to be Loved

## *Agape* is the Evidence of Spiritual Maturity

- Vertical (God, Deut 6.4-5) and Horizontal (Man, Lev 19.18)
- All of the Law and Prophets...reduction, interpretation, explanation, elimination, expansion
- Simpler, yet more Demanding (John 13.34-35)
  - Andy Stanley, "What does *love* require of me?"
  - Bob Goff, "*Love* everybody, always."

# Exercise 1

## Gospel Inventory – how ‘good’ is my good news?

- What is the gospel?
- 3 Spectrums to Consider (Keller)
  - Irreligion/Religion
  - Underadapted/Overadapted
  - Stable/Fluid
- What are your favorite stories and themes?
- How do YOU share the gospel?

# Teaching - Part 2

## Experiencing the Transformative Power of Agape over a Lifetime

- How did the Holy Spirit shape Jesus?
  - Before His public ministry (Birth → Baptism)
  - During His public ministry (Baptism → Ascension)
- The cumulative effect of a comprehensive lifestyle
  - Grace is the means by which we grow daily
  - Good for all is the effect of our daily growth
  - Glory is the ultimate goal of all our growth

## The Spiritual Disciplines are Channels of Gracious Transformation

- Endless ways by which God interacts with us...
- Practices → Behaviors → Habits → Lifestyle
  - Train, not Try // Urgency, not Anxiety // Presence, not Performance
- A Lattice for Optimum Growth
  - Rule/Rhythm of Life

## Exercise 2

Agape Inventory – how do I love God/Others with all my heart, soul, mind and strength?

- What does it mean to have:
  - A heart enamored with the gospel?
  - A mind illuminated by the gospel?
  - All my strength devoted to the gospel?
  - A soul integrated by the gospel?
  
- How do I take Spiritual Formation seriously:
  - How does growing through **Grace** uniquely transform us?
  - How does growing for **Good** uniquely transform us?
  - How does growing toward **Glory** uniquely transform us?