



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#8)

Beginning with the Bible's focus, starting with the fact-foundation.

When PRESENTING the GOOD NEWS ... WHERE DO WE START?

COMPARE:

- 1) what you have heard (and possibly done) with
- 2) what is found in Scripture (especially in Acts).

(You might be surprised... or dismayed.)

DO WE APPEAL TO AN UNSAVED PERSON'S DESIRE FOR PEACE, LOVE, HAPPINESS, SECURITY, ETC.?

✓ The apostles and early church didn't have this focus!
THIS ISN'T THE ISSUE!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO HEAVEN?

WHO DOESN'T!

DO YOU FEEL LONELY AND INSECURE? TRY JESUS!

I'LL ADD HIM TO MY LIST OF OPTIONS!

DO WE BOAST ABOUT OURSELVES?

✓ The apostles and early church didn't have this focus!
THIS ISN'T THE ISSUE!

- "ABOUT MYSELF" – Normally, this was NOT a part of it (unless it couldn't be avoided.)

I WAS A MESS; BUT LOOK AT WHAT JESUS DID!

I ASKED JESUS INTO MY LIFE... NOW I'M SINGING AND HAPPY ALL THE TIME!

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... Galatians 6:14a (NIV)

If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am. 2 Cor. 11:30 (NLT)

DO WE BOAST ABOUT OUR CHURCH?

✓ The apostles and early church didn't have this focus!
THIS ISN'T THE ISSUE!

COME VISIT OUR CHURCH... YOU'LL LOVE IT!

- "CHURCH" – This meant saved people, not programs or a building!
- **WHAT NORMALLY HAPPENED** – People turned to Jesus... and then met with other people who were following Jesus (= the "Church"). They met together for spiritual growth, not for a "how to get saved" sermon!

DO WE TELL THEM "GOD IS LOVE"?

✓ The apostles and early church didn't have this focus!
THIS ISN'T THE ISSUE!

- "LOVE" – This is NOT the "Good News" itself, but the reason that the "Good News" exists.
- Though it's not necessarily wrong to mention love, it can be quite misleading.

GOD LOVES ME WHEN I SIN!

A LOVING GOD WOULD NEVER SEND PEOPLE TO HELL!

✓ The apostles and early church **NEVER** used the word "LOVE" when explaining the Good News!

PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE ASKING WHY!

ALL VERSES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS WHERE THE WORD "LOVE" IS FOUND:

{ NONE }

ALL VERSES IN THE WHOLE BIBLE WHERE THE WORD "LOVE" IS DEFINED AS THE "GOOD NEWS":

{ NONE }

✨ If it's such an issue for us, ✨
then why wasn't it an issue for them?

BUT WHAT ABOUT JOHN 3:16?

✓ John 3:16 doesn't tell us that "love" is the Good News. Rather, love is the reason God gave us the Good News!

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16 (NASB)

✓ It's the Good News (offered in love) that we must accept.

- Otherwise, we remain under God's wrath...

... the wrath of God remains upon them.
John 3:36b (NLT)

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE OTHER NEW TESTAMENT VERSES THAT MENTION LOVE?

- Some refer to Jesus as loved by the Father.
- Others refer to our duty to love God and neighbor.
- Verses that link "God's love" to "salvation" refer to ALREADY- SAVED people. *

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will ...
Ephes. 1:4b-5 (NIV)

* (Or, in the Old Testament, they may refer to the nation of Israel, as God's chosen people, physically "saved" from Egypt, etc.)

THEN HOW DOES LOVE FIT INTO THE PICTURE?

✓ We can look at it as part of the **FOUNDATION** that makes the Good News possible.

- HOLINESS** is God's #1 attribute.
- LOVE** is one of the many attributes that is based on (and defined by) God's holiness.

THESE WORK TOGETHER TO BRING US THE GOOD NEWS!

➤ Because of **HOLINESS**, nothing sinful can exist in God's presence.

➤ Because of **LOVE**, God offers to take our punishment.

➤ **HOLINESS** defines the nature of the GOOD NEWS.

➤ **LOVE** is the reason for the GOOD NEWS.

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST CENTURY! **WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THINGS THE WAY THE APOSTLES DID?**

WE'RE A LOT MORE INTELLIGENT TODAY!

There is more hope for fools than for people who think they are wise.
Proverbs 26:12 (NLT)

... they were unschooled, ordinary men, ...
Acts 4:13b (NIV)

THEY MAY HAVE LACKED WHAT THE WORLD THINKS IS IMPORTANT.

HOWEVER ...

THEY HAD SOMETHING THAT NONE OF US HAVE...

... these men had been with Jesus.
Acts 4:13c (NIV)

AND THAT IS WHY THEY DID THINGS THE WAY THEY DID!

YOU JUST DESTROYED EVERYTHING I THOUGHT WAS PART OF TELLING THE GOOD NEWS!

ACTUALLY, WE WERE JUST SHOWING YOU WHAT WAS (OR WASN'T) IN THE BIBLE

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

GO BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS AND FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE!

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THEY DID!

THE GOOD NEWS:

FACT-BASED AND **LIFE**-CONTROLLING

- ✓ It's not just "facts" to be learned...
- ✓ It's specific facts that demand a response.

When these facts are shared with the unsaved, it results in a collision of "worldviews."

2 "worldviews" = Two different perspectives about all of life.

WHATEVER THE WORLD'S VIEW OR PERSPECTIVE MAY BE ...

- ✓ It stands in **rebellion** to God.
[People] who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ...
For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.
Romans 1:18a, 21 (NIV)
- ✓ When we tell people the good news, we are **attacking** their worldview.
We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
2 Cor. 10:5 (NIV)

THE ISSUE IS NOT THE POINTS IN COMMON... BUT THE DIFFERENCES.

LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES!

WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON! LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY!

THE DIFFERENCES ARE IMPORTANT:

YOU MUST REJECT YOUR WORLDVIEW AND CLING TO GOD'S.

– AND GOD'S WORLDVIEW IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

YOU INTOLERANT ENEMY OF HUMANITY!

WE WILL NOT TOLERATE YOU!

WORKING TOGETHER?

THERE MAY BE POINTS IN COMMON THAT ALLOW IT...
But only under one condition:

- ✓ Our ultimate goal must be **God's glory**.
Otherwise, WE ARE SINNING. *
Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, you must do all for the glory of God. *
1 Cor. 10:31 (NLT)
- ✓ If they don't like it... → then working with them might not be an option.

* (ALL people have this obligation. When people do "good" things for people, yet ignore God's honor and glory, their "good" is still sin.)

**CONFLICT BETWEEN WORLDVIEWS
MAY PROHIBIT COOPERATION.**

[PARENTHESIS]

I MUST DO ONLY WHAT HONORS AND GLORIFIES GOD.

I THINK IT'S OK TO LIE AND CHEAT – ANYTHING TO GET THE JOB DONE.

YOU NEED TO BE MORE OPEN-MINDED!

DON'T BE SO FANATICAL! YOUR GOD IS NO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S.

KEEP GOD OUT OF IT!

**WHEN WORLDVIEWS CHANGE,
IT STARTS WITH ONE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD.**

- ✓ It will result in a change in thinking.
They must UNDO THIS: They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, ...
Romans 1:25a (NIV)
- ✓ It will result in a change in actions.
They must UNDO THIS: They ... worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.
Romans 1:25b (NIV)

But the change in THINKING must occur (or at least begin) FIRST.

What is the FACT FOUNDATION of the GOOD NEWS?

- ✓ When the GOOD NEWS is presented in the book of Acts, what are the FACTS that are emphasized?

WHEN NECESSARY (IF THEY DON'T ALREADY KNOW)

ALWAYS

GOD (WHO HE IS, OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM, ETC.)

JESUS CHRIST (WHO HE IS, WHAT HE DID, ETC.)

Before we go any further...

YOU HAVE AN:

OPPORTUNITY

GOD (WHO HE IS, OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM, ETC.)

JESUS CHRIST (WHO HE IS, WHAT HE DID, ETC.)

Check the book of Acts, and find out for yourself!

Credits

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