



International Baptist Church Eindhoven

Your Christian Family Away From Home

CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

#1 a healthy church is Gospel Centered
Speaker: Auke Rienstra



A healthy church is growing but a growing church is not always healthy



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We want to be 'physically' and
spiritually a healthy and mature
church



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Today #1: a healthy Church (member) is Gospel Centered

Which gives us two questions to answer:

1. What is the Gospel?
2. Does it really need to be so central?



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures – 1 Cor 15:3-4



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

➤ The center of the Gospel is that Jesus died for our sins and rose again!

What does this imply?

1. God is the Creator, Sovereign and Holy
2. We are wonderfully made but fallen in sin
3. That the sinless God-man Jesus died for our sins
4. The Gospel requires a response of faith and repentance (John 3:16, Acts 2:38)



WHY DO WE NEED TO GO OVER THIS ... AGAIN?

“I am astonished that you are so quickly *deserting* him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a *different gospel*.. there are some who trouble you and want *to distort* the gospel of Christ.
– Gal. 1:6-7 (see also 2 Cor. 11:3-4)



WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL NOT MEAN?

(THESE ARE DIFFERENT GOSPELS)

- That Jesus (and Bible) is just an inspirational story
- That you're deep down a good person
- That God is only love
- That the Gospel will bring you health, wealth, and success
- That the Gospel requires good behaviour and spiritual disciplines to be saved
- That sacraments will save you



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GET THIS RIGHT?

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him *be accursed*. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him *be accursed*' – Gal. 1:8-9



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN SAVED FROM?

We were by nature children of wrath, but
God... - Ef. 2:1-5

If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is
better for you to enter the kingdom of God
with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown
into hell, 'where their worm does not die and
the fire is not quenched.' – Marc. 9:47-48



PAUL'S GOSPEL CENTEREDNESS

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. – 1 Cor. 1:22-24

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. – 1 Cor. 2:2



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I *preached* to you, which you *received*, in which you *stand*, and by which you are being *saved*, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – 1 Cor. 15:1-2



WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF GOSPEL CENTEREDNESS?

1. It saves and changes lives
2. It leads to worship
3. It lifts you up from despair
4. It will feed the mission



CHARLES SPURGEON

“The motto of all true servants of God must be, ‘We preach Christ; and him crucified.’ A sermon without Christ in it is like a loaf of bread without any flour in it. No Christ in your sermon, sir? Then go home, and never preach again until you have something worth preaching.”

