

The Gospel of the Kingdom (3 of 7)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, September 26th 2021



Sermon Series Focus: Throughout the Scriptures and church history, every spiritual awakening and renewal was founded on intense, corporate, Kingdom-centered prayer. Therefore, we must see prayer as being about more than going to God for our own spiritual and physical needs, or for the purpose of personal growth. In addition to those things, we must see prayer as our cry for more of the Kingdom! What does the Bible say about this? And what might it look like if we begin to pray this way at Grantham?

Sermon Title: Gospel in You

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-13; 2 Corinthians 5:15-17; Colossians 1:15-29; 3:1-10

Sermon Focus: We were created in God's image. Therefore, we can only know who we are in our Creator. This explains why many in our society are experiencing a major identity crisis. We don't know who we are and why we were created. So, what does it look like when the gospel of the kingdom impacts our soul? In the third message of our 7-week series, Pastor David shares what it looks like when we choose to allow Christ to shape our identity instead of the world.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Colossians 1:15-29 together. What are your thoughts and reactions to this deeply theological passage about Christ and the good news? Spend some time discussing the

concepts and message that Paul is putting forth in this text.

2. Pastor David said: “We can only know who God is, who we are, and how to make sense of our place in the world through Christ and the gospel.” Think about all the reasons why this is true for those who believe in the good news. Also, why is this so radically subversive in American society and culture today?
3. Pastor David often says, “We are made in God’s image, but broken and not as we should be.” What implications does the statement have for our lives? What evidence do we see that so many (even in the church) have not believed this? Also, how does this thinking run contrary to the current spirit of the age?
4. “Expressive individualism” is a term used by philosophers such as Charles Taylor to talk about the way we think about being selves in our post-modern world. This particularly refers to the idea that in order to be fulfilled and to be an authentic person—to be genuinely me—I need to be able to express outwardly or perform publicly that which I feel I am inside. For our secular age, this is how we’re told we should think about who we are and our identity. Why is this problematic? How does the gospel challenge this thinking?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15-17 and Colossians 3:1-10 together. What do you understand Paul to be saying? How have you experienced the truth of these words? Share some examples with your small group.
6. If you are a follower of Christ, you have received a new identity! The great challenge is overcoming all the competing voices and forces that move us away from who we are in Christ. Therefore, Pastor David said that we must be like “method actors” and choose to live into the reality that Christ has created through his death and resurrection. What do you think this looks like on a daily basis? How are you applying the gospel to your own identity?