

Equipping: Part 1

False Gospels

The Mission

Matthew 28

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Ephesians 4:11-16

**¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets,
the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all
attain to the unity of the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to mature
manhood, to the measure of the stature of the
fullness of Christ,**

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Gospel

Galatians 1:6-9

⁶ 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—⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:6-9

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

Alternative “gospels”

- Works-based religion**
- Easy-believism**
- The Prosperity gospel**
- The Progressive gospel**

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Works-based religion

Good news:

If you behave, you can be in a right relationship with God.

Good behavior merits good standing.

Works-based religion

Problem:

Mark 10:17-18, Matthew 5:20

Romans 3:9-20

Galatians 2:15-16, 21

Works-based religion

Recognizing:

Consuming shame or pride

Prodigal son mentality

“I don’t belong...” – “I can’t go...”

“I’m finally good enough for Church”

Works-based religion

Engaging:

Prayer & partnership with the Holy Spirit

Ask good questions – Listen

Clear gospel presentation

**God's standards and His grace are greater
than we imagine**

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Easy-believism

Good news:

If you believe the gospel and pray the sinners prayer, you are going to Heaven.

Easy-believism

Problem:

Matthew 7:21-23, 25:31-46

James 1-2

Jesus is Savior, but not Lord

Easy-believism

Recognizing:

Over-emphasis on “the sinners prayer”

Low commitment Christianity (no cost)

A stated distinction between saving faith & sanctifying faith

Easy-believism

Engaging:

Prayer & partnership with the Holy Spirit

Ask good questions – Listen

Clear gospel presentation

**An active relationship with Jesus, as Lord,
is the good life.**

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The Prosperity Gospel

Good news:

God wants you to prosper. Therefore, if you have faith, you will be healthy, wealthy, and in good relationships

The Prosperity Gospel

Problem:

Matthew 5:1-12, Luke 17:7-10, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Romans 5:1-5, James 1:2-4

It coopts idols, instead of destroying them

It leads to frustrated expectations

The Prosperity Gospel

Recognizing:

Confusion or shame in suffering

Suffering is not a part of the Christian life

Faith is a force or a currency for prospering

**Giving or performing to have prayers
answered**

The Prosperity Gospel

Engaging:

Prayer & partnership with the Holy Spirit

Ask good questions – Listen

Clear gospel presentation

God, Himself, satisfies

Character > Circumstance

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The Progressive Gospel

Good news:

There is no debt that must be paid or justice that must be satisfied to be in a right relationship with God. He forgives and embraces without any sacrifice needed.

The Progressive Gospel

Problem:

**Genesis 2:15-17, Romans 6:23, Exodus
33:20, Hebrews 9:22, Revelation 20:11-15**

God's attributes mute one another:

**Love/wrath, mercy/justice,
patience/judgment, imminence/holiness.**

The Progressive Gospel

Recognizing:

Problems with wrath, Hell, the exclusivity of Christ, and God's sexual ethic.

Low view of Scripture, especially the OT.

People are good, deep down, and the problem is environment.

The Progressive Gospel

Engaging:

Prayer & partnership with the Holy Spirit

Ask good questions – Listen

Clear gospel presentation

A God that does not punish sin is not good

The Mission

Matthew 28

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