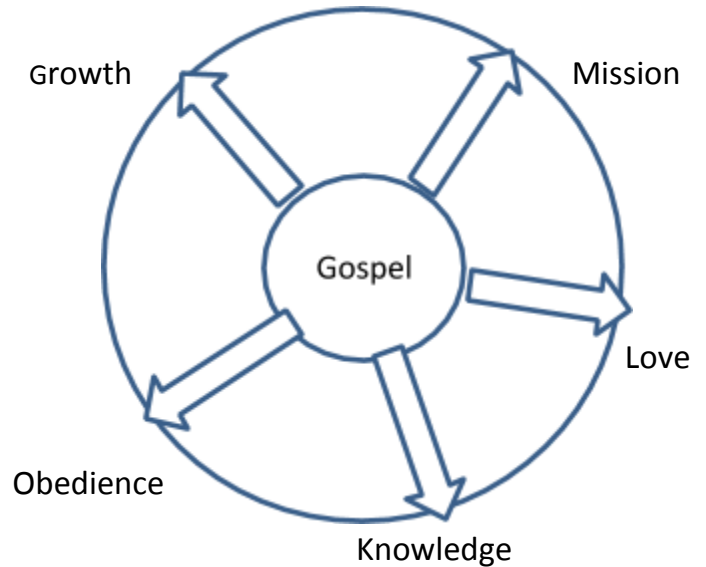
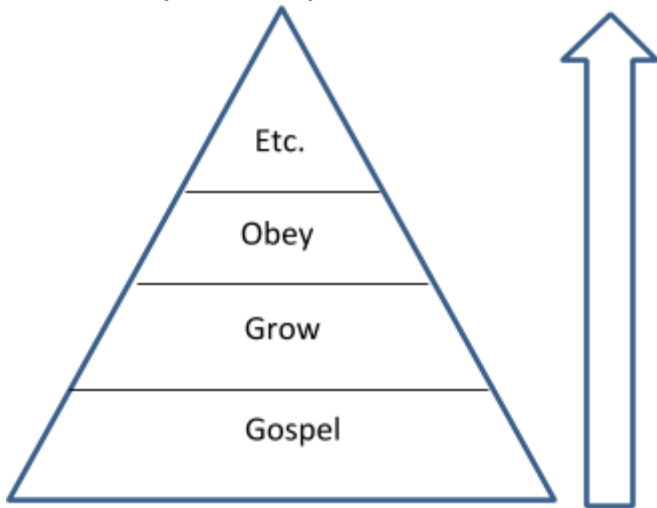


The Centrality of the Gospel



“Paul does not simply issue an imperative like, ‘Stop living with your boyfriend.’ He says, ‘How should we who have died to sin live any longer in it?’ Paul does not call people to die to sin; he does not invite them to enter into a higher level of abundant life; there are not appeals to become something which the believer is not already. The believer has died, is buried, is raised, is seated with Christ in the heavenlies, and so on. These are not plateaus for victorious Christians who have surrendered all, but realities for every believer regardless of how small one’s faith or how weak one’s repentance.” – Michael Horton, *Union With Christ*

Partnership in the Gospel

Although it is commonly believed that the theme of Philippians is joy, I would submit that the theme is found in verse 5, “Partnership in the Gospel.” As you study Philippians on your own, do you find you agree?

“Every word spoken and every deed done in behalf of the gospel from the moment of their conversions to the present, including their gift to Paul, are thus ‘your partnership in the furtherance of the gospel *from the first day until now.*’” – Gordon Fee

(continued on back)

The Gospel in You

Positionally – you are a saint (vs. 1)

Permanently – you are secured (vs. 6)

Romans 8:30 “And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Functionally – you are transformed (vs. 6, 9)

How does the “fruit of righteousness” come to a believer? _____

Philippians 2:13 – “For it is God that works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

The Gospel Through You

A Side by Side Ministry

In verse 7, Paul presents his imprisonment, defense, and confirmation of the Gospel as a paradigm for the church to follow.

A Financial Gift

Lydia’s hospitality in Acts 16:15

Financial support in Philippians 4:18-19

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:18-19

How do we reconcile the promises of God to provide when we give and the reality that sometimes, Christians suffer poverty, hunger, and even death?

The normal way for the Christian is that God provides. But when he doesn’t, it is not that he has been less faithful, but perhaps even more – because he has given the extra grace and blessing of suffering for the Gospel. Example #1 – Jesus.