



The Gospel Way Catechism

Intro & Question 1: What is the center and point of everything?



INTRODUCTION:

Catechesis = “instruction”, Catechism = “instruction manual”

Catechisms are summaries of Christian doctrine in question-and-answer form, used for religious instruction and memorization.

Counter-catechism = a manual that argues against another manual

“What if instead of trying to explain the gospel in terms of our culture, we tried to explain our culture in light of the gospel?” – Leslie Newbigin, theologian

“Cultural narratives in the West are so powerful they make it hard for the people of God to see straight. We struggle to see things as they are, to understand the difference between truth and error, and to live true to our identity. The secular script of “expressive individualism”—an outlook that describes our purpose in life as looking within to find ourselves and then express ourselves to the world—is prevalent now, to the point we’re unaware of just how pervasive this way of looking at the world has become.”

-Wax and West

“In *The Gospel Way Catechism*, we offer the old truths of Christianity in a way that identifies cultural narratives so they can be seen and considered, affirmed for the ways that they rightly embody some aspect of the biblical story, subverted and critiqued for not going far enough in delivering our deep desires of joy and fulfillment, and finally shown only to be fulfilled in and through Jesus Christ.”

-Wax and West

This MidWeek series is designed to help us work through all 50 questions included in *The Gospel Way*. We will sometimes tackle two questions in one session, but we will always structure our time to include discussion, sharing, teaching, and Scripture exposition surrounding the question of the night. You don’t have to purchase the book to participate in this study, but it will probably help to have your own opportunity to read the 2-4 page question-and-answer explanation prior to coming each Wednesday.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

According to worldly philosophies, what is the purpose of life?

According to the Bible, what is the purpose of life?

How has your understanding of the purpose of life changed over time?

QUESTION 1: What Is the Center and Point of Everything?

ANSWER: God is the center and point of everything. In him, all things come to be and are held together. He has no rival.

PRINCIPLES:

The world starts with us; the Bible starts with God.
(Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-3)

The world measures our satisfaction; the Bible measures God's glorification.
(Psalm 19:1-3, 7-9, Philippians 3:4-11)

The world says, "You come first." The Bible says, "God comes first."
(Exodus 20:3-6, Mark 12:28-34)

God is not a chapter in your story; God is the author of your story.
(Colossians 1:15-20, Romans 11:33-36)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Consider how you measure your identity and purpose. Is your primary perspective worldly or Biblical?

Consider how you organize your life. Do you agree that excessive individualism and self-actualization are confusion and exhausting? How does the Biblical worldview address that confusion and exhaustion?

What steps can you take to make God and His will your first priority? How can He become the center and point of everything for you?