

Jesus Is The Hero Of The Whole Bible

(Song of Songs: A Test Case)  
Handout

**12 Components of Christ-Centered Expository Preaching**

1) **Christ-centered preaching follows a holistic hermeneutic.**

Historical → grammatical → theological → Christological

2) **Christ-centered preaching honors the Grand Redemptive Storyline of the Bible.**

Creation → Fall → Redemption → New Creation

3) **Christ-centered preaching follows the pattern of Jesus and the apostles revealed in the Bible.**

4) **Christ-centered preaching sees Jesus as the hero and focus of the whole Bible.**

5) **Christ-centered preaching will be rigorously theocentric/Christocentric and not Anthropocentric.**

6) **Christ-centered preaching always begins with and honors the historical-grammatical, but it does not stop there.** It always includes the theological and Christological.

7) **When interpreting the Bible, especially the Old Testament, Christ-centered preaching looks for “sweeping themes” such as redemptive promises, prophecies, types, examples, patterns, and persons that point to or anticipate Christ.** This is not allegory.

8) **Christ-centered preaching avoids the snares of moralism and legalism that promotes pride (self-righteousness) on one side and despair (self-condemnation) on the other.**

9) **Christ-centered preaching reminds us that we don’t need to be good to be saved, we need a Savior (rescuer) to be saved.**

10) **Christ-centered preaching sees Genesis 3:15 as a crucial interpretive key that unlocks the unfolding drama of redemption.**

11) **Christ-centered preaching utilizes the Fallen Condition Focus principle of Bryan Chapell (Christ-Centered Preaching) (FCF) that ask, “what is there in this text that shows man’s need that requires the grace of God (a Savior) for resolution?”**

12) **Christ-centered preaching recognizes that what we say is more important than how we say it, but how we say it has never been more important.** We preach Christ, but we should proclaim Him well!

### Specific Christological Themes Gleaned From The Song of Songs

- 1) There is a wonderful King whose name is above all other names (1:1-4; cf Phil. 2:9-10).
- 2) This king (1:4) is also a shepherd (1:7-8; cf. Sam 1:16-17; Ps. 23; Mic 5:2; John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4; Rev. 7:17) who is a King-Shepherd-Bridegroom who cares for his sheep as “the shepherd and overseer of [our]souls” (1 Peter 2:25) (1:5-14).
- 3) Our Shepherd-King gives us rest under His shadow and nourishes and sustains us with the fruit of His care (2:1-7; cf Ps. 34:8; Matt. 11:28).
- 4) Our Shepherd-King is the great seeker! He calls us to Himself with love and tenderness (2:8-17; Matt 11:28; John 6:37).
- 5) Our Shepherd-King is also the “Captain of our salvation” (Heb. 2:10) who has hunted down and defeated the “little foxes” that can destroy our lives and marriages (2:15).
- 6) Like Mary Magdalene in the garden, we should seek our King, even in times of darkness, and hold tightly to Him when we find Him (3:1-5; see John 20:1-18). also Jere. 29:13-14 and O'Donnell's commentary on Song of Songs, p. 71).
- 7) We should long for the coming of our Shepherd-King with His armies, crowned as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (3:6-11; Rev. 19:1-21).
- 8) The love of the Shepherd-King has transformed a timid, shy and insecure woman into a beautiful, radiant bride because she is the object of His love. She has “no flaw” (4:7) because He has loved her and made her so!
- 9) In spite of our sinful and foolish rebuffs, our Shepherd-King continually seeks our presence. He stands at the door knocking, inviting His people to let Him in (5:2-8; Rev. 3:20).
- 10) There is no King like this King! 5:9-16 (which is almost apocalyptic) should be read in context with the royal wedding song of Psalm 45 and Rev. 1:13-16.
- 11) Because of the work of Christ, our Bridegroom sees us as beautiful beyond compare (7:1-9). We are His and He is ours now and forever (7:10).
- 12) Our Shepherd-King is not only our Master, Lord, Savior, and King, He is also our brother (8:1; cf Heb. 2:11-17).

- 13) Song of Solomon 8:5-14 should be taught in the context of 1 Cor. 13 and 1 John 4:7-21, the 3 great “love” texts in the Bible. The love shared between the Shepherd-King and the Bride compels her to call to him to leave the “garden” (8:13) and come to her (8:14). The Bible ends in exactly the same way as the Bride of Christ pleads with the Bridegroom to come for her (Rev. 22: 17, 20).

The Missionary Task To The Unreached:  
What About Those Who Have Never Heard?  
Handout

I. What is my source of authority for answering this question?

1. “I think” = intellect
2. “I feel” = emotion
3. “We’ve always done” = tradition
- \*4. “Scripture says” = God’s Word

II. What are the theological options?

- 1) Pluralism/Universalism
- 2) Inclusivism
- 3) Exclusivism

III. What does the Bible say?

- 1) Jesus
- 2) Peter
- 3) Paul

IV. Are not all religions basically the same? No.

Six points divergence between Christianity and Other World Religions

- 1) The Christian God is personal, He is Father!
- 2) Christ is Savior.
- 3) All persons are of great value in a Christian anthropology as image bearers of God.

- 4) A Christian philosophy of history has purpose and is linear;
- 5) Christian salvation is by grace through faith in Christ; virtually all other religions offer salvation by works (Torah obedience, Five Pillars of Islam, Yoga in Hinduism, Noble Eightfold Path of Buddhism).
- 6) Christian eschatology is based upon the hope of bodily resurrection; other religions offer immortality of the soul, reincarnation or nirvana.

## V. Living Out Our Biblical Convictions: Marks of a Great Commission People

### Romans 15:14-24

- 1) We will pursue the main thing while still doing many good things. (15:14-16)
- 2) We will focus on the nations. (15:16)
- 3) We will be Christ-centered in all that we do. (15:17-19)
- 4) We will be gospel saturated in all we do. (15:19-20)
- 5) We will be passionate for the unreached and unengaged peoples of the world. (15:20-23).
- 6) We will do our part in helping those whom God sends to hard places. (15:24)

## VI. Some Practical Questions to Consider For Our Families

- Do I model Great Commission Christianity before my children and grandchildren?
- Do I pray that God would call my children and grandchildren to be international missionaries?
- Do I have a missions saving account for my children/grandchildren?

- Do I have the work of my Lord in my will whereby I can make my single largest gift to the Lord's work at my death?
- Am I generous, even sacrificial, in giving to my church, in the area of missions?
- Have I adopted an unreached people group internationally and here in North America?
- Have I gone on a short term trip to see just how lost the world is?
- Am I involved in church planting?
- Do I pray regularly for the nations?
- Do I have a passport?!