

The “5 Truths” of the Gospel

Truth #1: Already Forgiven – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

Truth #2: Made Clean – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

Truth #3: Made Righteous – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

Truth #4: In Union – you are “in Christ” because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

Truth #5: By Faith – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

The “5 Keys” to Understanding the New Testament

Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God’s spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Key #2: Proper Context - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

Key #3: Spiritual Beings - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a “born again” spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

Key #5: Hebrew Law - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

1 Corinthians 2:10a, 11b-13a, 14, 16b For to us God revealed them {the things He has prepared for us} through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. [11] ... the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. [12] Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, [13] which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, ... [14] But a natural man {even a believer thinking in human terms} does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised ... [16] ... but we have the mind of Christ.

True Gospel Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 11222
Spring, TX 77391-1222

www.TrueGospelOfJesusChrist.org

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True Tracts

Recognizing False “Christian” Teaching

Tradition may be great for Thanksgiving and college football games but it is the enemy of every Christian. Unbiblical traditional teaching, based on human reasoning instead of the teaching of the Holy Spirit, has found its way into every Christian denomination. It is the cause of most of the error that has been, and is being, taught in the Christian Church. And, there is much more error than most people think. Traditional teaching becomes accepted as orthodox over time. You may be surprised to find out what the word “orthodox” really means.

1 Corinthians 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, ...

Orthodoxy and Heresy

“Orthodoxy” means the established teaching of the majority while “heresy” means the teaching of the minority.

Orthodoxy does not mean that the teaching is true and heresy does not mean that the teaching is false. Originally being called a “heretic” was not a negative term but simply meant that you brought “another idea” to the discussion. In New Testament times, the Pharisees and Sadducees were “orthodox”; Jesus was crucified for being a “heretic.”

Serious Damage

Unbiblical traditional teaching, referred to in Scripture as the “wisdom of men,” has caused great damage to the faith of millions of Christians. It has led believers away from the “good news” Gospel of Jesus Christ and into the sin-oriented, often condemning, sometimes excessive message of today’s divided Church. The issue is not the sincerity or dedication of those who formulated these man-made doctrines. The issue is their ignorance of the clear teaching of Scripture which says that only the Holy Spirit can enlighten the human mind to the truth of God’s Word (see back panel).

Today’s Christian church presents a “gospel” that claims your sins are forgiven only when you have faith in Jesus Christ as Savior; and it says that you remain a “sinner” even after faith. The Biblical Gospel, in contrast, says that all sins of all people were forgiven on the Cross except unbelief, and those who trust in Christ as Savior are born again and made righteous in their spirit. The Bible teaches that an unbeliever is a forgiven sinner. Today’s human wisdom gospel also says that, as a Christian, you are a forgiven sinner. Thus, it is really no gospel at all.

Signs of False “Gospels”

This is but a partial list of symptoms that identify how “human wisdom” traditional teachings are presented as being orthodox teachings:

1. The dominant teaching today is “how to” be a Christian, a way of living that is based on human self-effort. The true Christian life is living from your spiritual union with Jesus Christ as He lives *in* you and *through* you. In your not yet redeemed mortal body, you *follow* Him in faith.
2. The indwelling life of Christ is rarely taught in churches today even though it is the *central dynamic* of every Christian’s life.
3. Christians are taught that they are still “sinners” and are only “credited” or “imputed” with Christ’s righteousness. “I’m just a sinner saved by grace,” is a common saying among Christians. If you are a sinner, you are not saved and you are not a member of the family of God. It is your spirit that is “saved” upon faith in Christ. Your mortal body will be redeemed at some point in the future.
4. Teaching tends to focus on sin and the need for ongoing forgiveness instead of on righteousness and the completeness of God’s forgiveness through the Cross and resurrection of Christ.
5. Traditional teaching relies on its supposed historicity - how people in the past have believed the same thing. Just because something is old does not make it true –consider the false teachings of Islam, Hinduism or Buddhism that so many believe as “orthodox” in their religions.

Human Wisdom

Traditional teaching relies heavily on wrong assumptions. Recognizing false teachings requires understanding the truth. Here are a few examples of truths that many Christians miss:

- a. Jesus was born under Law and taught Law. His words must be understood in their proper context. Jesus fulfilled the Law and then ended the Law so that He could usher in this present era of grace.
 - b. Most of the New Testament must be understood from its proper Jewish context. Interpreting it from a Gentile point of view alters and misinterprets the message dramatically.
 - c. Mixing the Old and New Covenants leads to false teaching. Law and grace are often indiscriminately mixed; yet, they are total opposites. Law is based on human self-effort while grace is based on the power of the Holy Spirit within you as a believer.
 - d. Mixing the temporal and eternal also leads to false teaching. Christians are “saved” by their *spiritual* new birth. The abundant life of Jesus Christ is experiencing the life and power of Christ in your spirit. Teaching that focuses on physical blessing is often false teaching.
- 1 Corinthians 2:5 that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Godly wisdom says that you should always ask the Holy Spirit to teach you His truth instead of relying on the opinions of mere mortals.