

GROWTH IN THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

Sunday, March 21, 2021 -- The Gospel-Centered Life series -- msg 1 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

ROMANS 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...

1st CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

*For I delivered to you **as of first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

- The Gospel is the power of God that brings the dead to life.

ROMANS 1:16 (see above)

- The Gospel among the Colossian church was bearing fruit and growing.

COLOSSIANS 1:6

*This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is **bearing fruit** everywhere by changing lives, just as it **changed your lives** from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.*

- But the Gospel among others diminished in its transforming power.

2 PETER 1:3-9

*3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your **faith** with **virtue**, and virtue with **knowledge**, 6 and knowledge with **self-control**, and self-control with **steadfastness**, and steadfastness with **godliness**, 7 and godliness with **brotherly affection**, and brotherly affection with **love**. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.*

If Christians are to **grow into maturity in Christ**, we must deepen and enlarge our understanding of the Gospel as God's appointed means for personal and communal transformation.

- 1) The Gospel is not just the door to life in Christ; it is also the path of life in Christ.

Colossians 2:6

- 2) The Gospel is not just the means of our salvation; it is also the means of our transformation!

- 3) The Gospel is not only the deliverance from sin's penalty; it is also the release from sin's power!

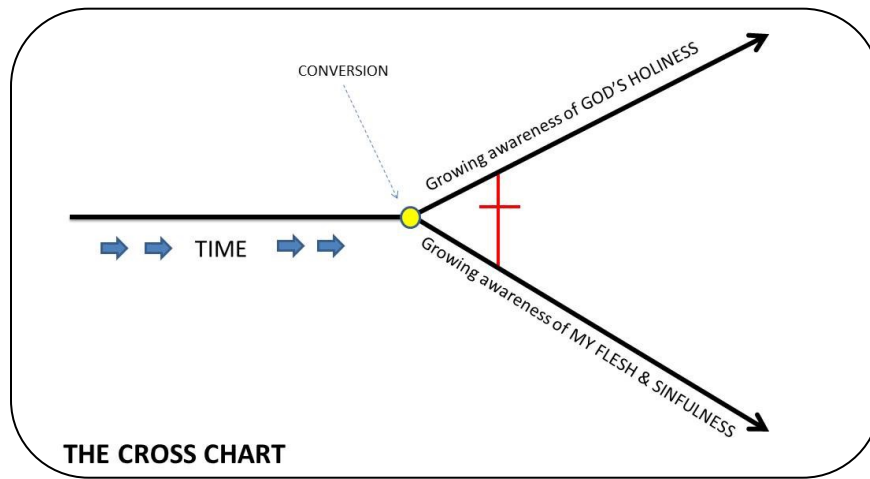
Romans 6:1-11

- 4) The Gospel not only makes us right with God; it also frees us to delight in God .

(justification)

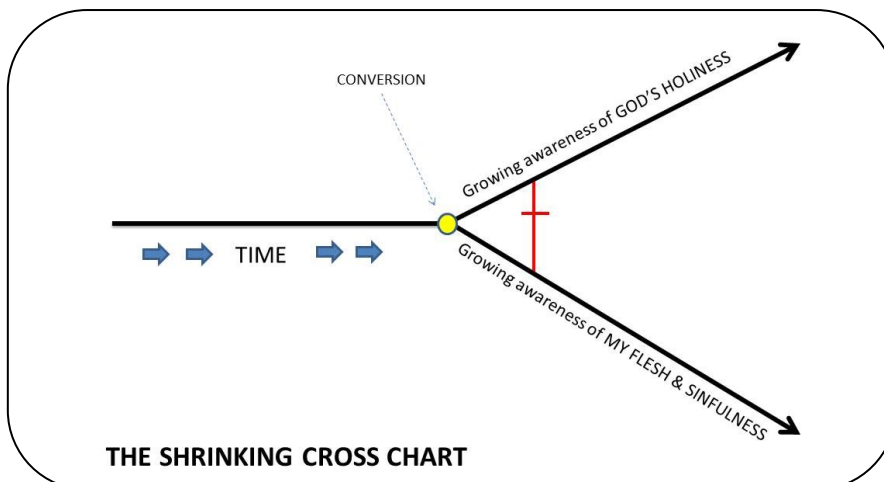
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- 5) The Gospel changes everything! 2 Corinthians 5:17



GOSPEL GROWTH IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

- 1) At the point of conversion I have a very limited view of God's holiness and my sin.
- 2) As time goes on I should grow in my awareness of both of these.
 - I begin to see God as he actually is. (Isaiah 55:8-9; Revelation 5)
 - I begin to see myself as I actually am. (Jeremiah 17:9-10)
- 3) As this happens, the cross gets bigger and bigger in my mind and heart.
- 4) As we grow in the knowledge of God through His Word and obedience, we also grow in awe of His grace. As we have a greater appreciation of His grace, we have a greater desire to obey. His grace fuels our obedience and faith.
- 5) Unfortunately, sanctification (growth in holiness) doesn't always work as neatly as we would like... our sin and flesh tend to minimize the Gospel.
 - I am likely to underestimate God's holiness/power.
 - I am likely to overestimate my own righteousness/ability.
- 6) When our spiritual growth is stunted by lacking in the qualities mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5-7, our view of the Cross will begin to shrink.
When we think little of the Cross, we think much of the flesh and sin.



When some people first come to faith the cross seems huge to them. They see it rightly.

But as time goes on, they do not grow spiritually so the cross shrinks in its significance. Over time they can come to take it for granted and think of it less.

How much has the cross grown or shrank since you became a Christian?

What do you need to do in order to get it moving more in the right direction?