

THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

"But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

Matthew 16:15-18

1. The Gospel RADICALLY changes INDIVIDUALS.

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received...

Ephesians 4:1

2. The Gospel creates UNIFIED PEOPLE.

... urge you walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope at your calling — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. For it says: When he ascended on high, he took the captives captive; he gave gifts to people. But what does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower parts of the earth? The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things.

Ephesians 4:1b-10

3. The Gospel GIVES us a SPIRITUAL LANE to run in.

And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

Ephesians 4:11-13

4. The Gospel calls us to GROW UP, not just SHOW UP.

Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head — Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Ephesians 4:14-16