

What is the Gospel?

The Ethics of the Gospel

the two go together!

- the message of the cross is not just about God and Jesus; it is also about us
- Gal 2:14
- Phil 1:27
 - Eph 4:1
- the story of what God has done in Jesus is to be the pattern for our lives

the ethics of the gospel

- a pattern of dying and living anew
 - John 12:24 – no fruit otherwise
- Romans 6:1-7
 - the point of the chapter: why we cannot go on sinning
 - dying to sin; crucifying the old man of sin; renouncing that life; change, repentance
 - living a new life in the Spirit of God
 - Rom 1:4; 8:11

the ethics of the gospel

- a pattern of denial of self / self-interest and complete acceptance of the will of God
 - letting God truly reign over us
- Matt 16:24-26
 - context: Jesus' dedication to the cross
 - not pursuing the things / pleasures of this world (Matt 4); a basic choice between two incompatible ways (Matt 7:13-14)
 - sacrificing now for greater benefit later (Heb 12:2)

the ethics of the gospel

- a pattern of humility of mind
 - the greatness and the power is in God, not us
 - there is no room for human boasting (Rom 3:27; Eph 2:9)
- Phil 2:5-8
 - Matt 20:25-28; John 13:4ff
 - Rom 15:1-3

the ethics of the gospel

- a pattern of love for others
 - dedication to the welfare of others first
 - love creates unity, reconciliation (Col 3:14)
- 1 John 4:10-11
 - Matt 5:43-48
 - Eph 5:1-2
- 2 Cor 4:10-11 – love that compels us to sacrifice for others
 - Gal 5:13