

# — Love Declared • Love Demonstrated —

## Part 5 - Good News

### God's Love

As we have been talking about Love Declared and Love Demonstrated, we are responding to God's call on our church, a call that is bigger than us, and partaking with Him to step into our destiny. We desire that the Good News spreads far and wide through us as we enter this wonderfully exciting season as a church family – Love Declared, Love Demonstrated!

We bring a demonstration of the Kingdom of God's power at work and when the opportunity presents itself, share a bold witness for Christ and invite them to know more because we are unashamed of this Gospel, this Good News. The important thing is that accompanying a love that is demonstrated is a love that is declared.

### What is the Gospel?

- + In Jesus' time, the gospel (εὐαγγέλιον; yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on) was "good news," carried by the evangelist (εὐαγγελιστής; yoo-ang-ghel-istace') to people who hadn't heard.
- + It was a public announcement about a public event intended for the public realm of life.
- + As Christians the 'Gospel' actually describes what the Kingdom of God looks like (Luke 4:1-19).

*"The Gospel is that the crucified and risen Jesus is the Lord of the world. And that His death and resurrection transform the world, and that transformation can happen to you. You, in turn, can be part of the transforming work."* N. T. Wright

## **Sending the Right Message**

The church has been guilty of so emphasising getting someone across the line and “saved,” that we fail to draw them into the bigger salvation story.

We’ve got good news to tell that calls for a response. And while people may question the truth of our message, if we tell it right, they shouldn’t question the relevance.

## **The Big Story**

***Designed For Good.*** We were made to love God, love each other, and look after the world God placed us in as a part of looking after each other. (Genesis 1-2; Job 7:17-18; Psalm 8:3-9; 19; 144:3-4; Matthew 22:37-40; John 1; Ephesians 2:8-10)

***Damaged By Evil.*** We’ve despised God, abused others and vandalised our world. “Sin” pollutes, perverts and destroys life (Genesis 3; Isaiah 59; John 8:34; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23).

1. A physical death – our bodies will die and get sick.
2. A spiritual death – broken relationship with God
3. An eternal death – hell, total separation from God

Thankfully God didn’t, and doesn’t stand back, watching it all happen waving a finger that says I told you so! No – instead He entered into the broken mess.

God’s free gift to us is the gift of Jesus. Jesus died on a cross and suffered as a sacrifice to take away the sin and guilt of others. He rose again and conquered death so we could have life.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NIV)*

***Restored For Better.*** We're forgiven, freed, healed, and transformed by Jesus' sacrifice (Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 3:16; John 10:10; Acts 4:12; Romans 5; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14-15)

Our admission of failure and our turning to Jesus to trust that He is the solution for our healing and our brokenness starts a whole new life in Him.

This really is Good News and it doesn't stop there!

***Sent Together To Heal.*** Jesus has empowered us with God's Spirit to live the resurrection hope (Luke 4:18-19; Luke 12:31-37, Matthew 20:25-28, Matthew 28:18-20, John 13:34-35; John 15:5-27; John 20:19-22, Acts 1:8)

Love Declared – Love Demonstrated!

***Set Everything Right.*** We await the day Jesus returns to deal with all evil, rule fairly and set everything right—a transformed world, God with us, and real peace (Psalm 96; Psalm 98; Isaiah 2:2-4; Isaiah 65:17-25; Matthew 13:24-51; 25; Acts 17:31; Romans 8:18-25; 1 Corinthians 15:21-58; Philippians 2:1-11; Revelation 11:18; Revelation 21:1-8)

## **What's Your Response?**

How will you respond to Jesus?

We have a great God who can take the most messed up life and restore that life to one of beauty and purpose. We have to have faith in God and ask Him to forgive us for the wrong things we do and accept Jesus and what He did for us, and then we can truly experience

a relationship with God and understand how He wants us to live in the world with His Holy Spirit's power. God will also give us hope for the future, knowing that we are sent to heal the world together and that eventually we will be with him in heaven for eternity.

*Jesus, I believe in you and I know you love me. Thank you for paying the price for my sins. Please forgive me of all my sins and come into my life. I want you to be the boss of my life. Holy Spirit come and fill me and empower me to live for Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Thank you for giving me life with you now and forever. Amen*

This is the message where we find our own story in the midst of His Big Story. It's what we are charged with declaring to others when the opportunity presents itself.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Colossians 1:13-14. What does the Father's gift of Jesus mean to you personally? What effect has this "kingdom transfer" from dark to light had in your own life?
2. Read Luke 4:18-19. What stands out to you in Jesus' statement? How does this impact a broken world? How does this impact your broken world?
3. Read John 15:26; 16:8. Who has the responsibility of convincing someone for their need for Jesus? How has the Holy Spirit guided you as you've reached out to others?
4. Describe in your own words what it means to be a witness for Jesus. What are we to proclaim?
5. What might "power" from the Holy Spirit look like in reaching out to others in demonstrating and declaring His love?
6. Break into pairs and in your own words use the Big Story Headings to describe the Good News to each other.