

Distortions or Fallacies of the Gospel Message

We will be looking at some **common fallacies** in the presentation of the Gospel. Confusion abounds with respect both to the content and presentation of the Gospel. Some do not present it purely; some do not present it clearly; some do not present it sincerely. But because God is gracious, He often gives light despite our imprecise witness.

Fallacies in the Gospel Presentation

- First, let's look at the **fallacy** that the Gospel primarily concerns other issues than the sin issue. Remember, the sin issue here is **imputed sin** and penalty, not personal sin.
 - Sin can have many symptoms that can alert an individual to the basic problem, which is sin's separating us from a righteous God. The believed Gospel solves the imputed sin problem. **2 Cor 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Another **fallacy** is that there are differing gospels for different groups of people. There is not one Gospel for children, another for young people, yet another for adults, one for unchurched people and another for those with a church background. **THERE IS ONE GOSPEL.**
 - Paul addressed this issue in **2Cor.11:4** "For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."
- Next there is the fallacy that the truth can come from another source other than the Word of God.
 - Acts 13:5 "When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper." Acts 17:2, Rm.15:4
- The next fallacy is that cleverness, personality, or celebrity will convince or convict.
 - If the convicting ministry of the Spirit is to set the truth of the Gospel before the unsaved person in such a light that he must acknowledge it as truth (whether he believes it or not), then this must be done by the Spirit, not by one's cleverness. Jn.16:8
- There is a fallacy that charm will insure results.
 - We should not be offensive as to dress, speech, or culture, but the moment we announce the Gospel, we take on the offense of the cross. Gal.5:11
- Another fallacy is that procedures produce conversion.
 - Procedures **DO** produce results, but results are not always the same as conversions.
- A Good Test for Any Gospel Message: Did the presenter give the listener something **to believe** or did the presenter give them **something to do**?

Fallacies in Stating the Content of the Gospel

- One **fallacy** is adding baptism to the Gospel.
 - While baptism is an important Christian ordinance, it is not part of the Gospel.
- There is also the fallacy of misunderstanding repentance (metanoia).
 - Repentance means a genuine change of mind that affects the life in some way. Acts 2:38, 17:30, 2Pet.3:9
- The fallacy of making “Surrender of Life” a part of the Gospel is growing in leaps and bounds within Christianity.
 - Ever hear the expression “If He’s not Lord OF all, He’s not Lord AT all”? This is also known as Lordship Salvation.

It is the saint’s mission to learn what the true Gospel is and to bring that Good News to the lost.

Rom.10:13-15 “for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Jn3:14-15 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”