

Man-Centered vs. God-Centered Gospel: Battling for God's Glory in Gospel Proclamation

~Selected Scriptures~



God's Glory in Gospel Proclamation

I. Manipulators vs. Messengers

II. Man-Centered vs. God-Centered



Manipulators vs. Messengers

- Will Metzger puts it this way: “Since salvation benefits us, *there is not a complete antithesis between the two views.* We are helped, loved and rewarded in God’s gospel. God centers his designs on saving people. Yet he does it in a way that magnifies himself.” (38).



Manipulators vs. Messengers

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
 - 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation**. 20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, **God** making his appeal through us. We implore you **on behalf of Christ**, be reconciled to God. 21 **For** our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



God's Glory in Gospel Proclamation

I. Manipulators vs. Messengers

II. Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- God
- Man
- Christ
- Call



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- God: Need-“Meeter” vs. Creator King
 - **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
 - **Isaiah 44:24** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,
 - **Psalms 24:1-2** The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- God: Simple Lover vs. Holy Judge
 - **Psalm 2:12** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
 - **Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- God: Simple Lover vs. Holy Judge
 - **Isaiah 6:3** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
 - **Acts 17:31** because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.



God's Glory in Gospel Proclamation

I. Manipulators vs. Messengers

II. Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- God: Holy Creator and Owner

- Man



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Man: Autonomous Seeker vs. Dependent Creature
 - **Romans 3:11** no one understands; no one seeks for God.
 - **John 6:44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
 - **John 3:3** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Man: Autonomous Seeker vs. Dependent Creature
 - **Acts 17:26-28** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring.'



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Man: Dysfunctional Person vs. Guilty Sinner
 - **Romans 1:21-25** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24 ¶ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Man: Dysfunctional Person vs. Guilty Sinner
 - **Romans 3:10-20** 10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19 ¶ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.



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Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- **Christ: Exalted Creature vs. Unique God-Man**
 - **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - **1 Timothy 2:5-6** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Christ: Helpful Example vs. Mediating Substitute
 - **Hebrews 7:26-27** For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- **Christ: Helpful Example vs. Mediating Substitute**
 - **Hebrews 9:26b** But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
 - **Colossians 1:22** [Jesus] has now reconciled you in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,
 - **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Christ: Helpful Example vs. Mediating Substitute
 - **Isaiah 53:5** But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.
 - **Romans 3:25-26** 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Christ: Inspiring Winner vs. Resurrected Lord
 - **John 6:40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Christ: Inspiring Winner vs. Resurrected Lord
 - **Philippians 2:8-11** 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.



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Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Call: Trust in Jesus + ... vs. Trust in Jesus Alone
 - **Romans 4:2-8** 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Call: Trust in Jesus + ... vs. Trust in Jesus Alone
 - **1 Corinthians 1:30-31** 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."
 - **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- **Call: Decide for Jesus vs. Live for Jesus**
 - **James 2:14** What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?
 - **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Call: Decide for Jesus vs. Live for Jesus
 - **Matthew 3:7-8** 7 ¶ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
 - **Acts 26:20** 20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.



Man-Centered vs. God-Centered

- Call: Decide for Jesus vs. Live for Jesus
 - “Although turning and trusting may be presented separately at times in the Bible, as we compare Scripture with Scripture, we see that they are two sides of one coin. We must avoid pressing one on unbelievers without the other. Repentance without faith will lead to sorrow and mere legalistic resolutions (2 Cor 7:10; cf. Cain, Saul and Judas). Faith without repentance is unfounded optimism, leading to self-deception.” (Metzger, Tell the Truth, 76).



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- God: Holy Creator and Owner
- Man: Dependent Guilty Sinner
- Christ: God-Man and Risen Substitute
- Call: Trust in Jesus and Turn from Sin

