

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
"Good News 101 – Basic Essentials of Faith & GNC Vision, Mission, and Values"
Good News in the Midst of Bad News
Drue Warner
9-14-25

"In a world of bad news, everyone needs Good News."

Overview

1. Why are we here? (Purpose / Vision) – **With so many churches, is our church really necessary?**
2. What are we all about? (Mission)
3. **What do we believe? (Beliefs)**
4. What do we do? (Behaviors)
5. What is the Good News? (Motivation)

This Week...

Vision & Mission

- **Vision** – *"to experience and express LOVE from God and to others."*
 - **What's YOUR vision?** What's your purpose?
- **Mission** – Our mission is *"to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship."*
 - **What's YOUR mission?** How has God called you to live out your vision?
- **Verse** – The verse that undergirds our vision is, *Galatians 5:6b, "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*
- **Expressing Love to Others**
What are the 1 or 2 biggest, most difficult, painful trials or suffering that you've experienced in life? Have you had the opportunity to encourage someone else as a result of the trial you experienced? *"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

2 Corinthians 12:10

- - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- *"In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world."* – Jesus (John 16:33)

UNITY... *"That the world will believe."*

- *“... That they may be one, Father... so that the world may believe that you have sent me... I in them and you in me, so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” – John 17:21, 23*
- Essentials (3) vs. Non-essentials (10)
- ***“In the essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity.”***
- **Rupertus Meldenius** (Moravian movement, dating back to 1457, Jan Hus)

NON-ESSENTIALS (10) - Areas of disagreement where unity is not required

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|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Scripture (inerrancy) | 5. Sacraments | 8. Superiority |
| 2. Sin Nature | 6. Spiritual Gifts | (Leadership) |
| 3. Sovereignty | 7. Stewardship | 9. Style of Worship |
| 4. Salvation | | 10. Second Coming |

ESSENTIALS (3) - Core beliefs in which unity is required

1. Scripture (Authority)
2. Trinity (Deity of Christ)
3. Salvation (by faith in Christ alone)

OUR RULE BOOK

- Every sport has a book of instructions and rules that must be followed. If they are not followed, then you can't play that sport. The joy that we receive in watching college or pro football, or baseball, or tennis, or pickle ball or whatever it may be, fully depends on the adherence to its particular book of rules and instructions.
- The same can be said of the Christian faith. The Bible is our book of instructions and rules. If all of it is not adhered to, then we might as well just go home.
- This church and who we are as a people, is completely under the authority of the Bible, God's rule instruction for faith in life
- ***“You don't have to give up your intellect to trust the Bible. You have to give up your pride.”***
- R.C. Sproul
- ***“If you're following Jesus, but you don't believe what Jesus said, then you're not following Jesus.”*** - Steve Brown

THE STORY

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|---|-----------------------|
| ▪ Creation (Goodness) | God made it all. |
| ▪ Fall (Rebellion) | We lost it all. |
| ▪ Redemption (Sacrifice / Ransom) | Jesus did it all. |
| ▪ Salvation (Restoration / Adoption) | We get it all. |
| ▪ Sanctification (Beautification process) | God will grow us all. |
- Drue's definition: *“God turning our ‘should do's’ into ‘want to's’ and our ‘want to's’ into ‘do's,’ and wherever we do and don't is completely covered in Christ's done.”*

- Glorification (Beautification completion) God will restore it all (to full glory).
 - *“The corpse that is planted is no beauty, but when it’s raised, it’s glorious. Put in the ground weak, it comes up powerful. **The seed sown is natural; the seed grown is supernatural** – same seed, same body but what a difference from when it goes down in physical mortality to when it is raised up in spiritual immortality!”*
- 1 Corinthians 15:42–44 (MSG)

GNC BELIEFS

1. I’m really broken and I need help.
2. Jesus is perfect and He is my help.
3. Jesus is the only way to healing in my relationship with God.
4. The Holy Spirit is my power to live as a follower of Jesus.
5. God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church

GNC BEHAVIORS

1. Serving others (valuing others greater than myself)
2. Reconciling relationships (building bridges, not burning them)
3. Giving generously (blessing others with my time, talent, and treasure)

1. BROKEN - I’m really broken and I need help.

SUMMARY: The Bible teaches that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) such that, in our natural condition, we are without hope and under the curse and judgment of sin (John 8:24), which is condemnation of death (Romans 5:12) and separation from God (Isaiah 59:2).

SCRIPTURE:

- *For I was born a sinner - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.*
- Psalm 51:5
- *“The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked.”* - Jeremiah 17:9
- *As the Scripture says, “No one is good - not even one. No one has real understanding; **no one is seeking God. All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong.** No one does good, not even one. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- Romans 3:10-12, 23

Starting Point

- **Our starting point is not neutral. That’s what gets us confused.**
- **Our starting point is sinful separation from God, and we are undeserving of anything good from God.** The only thing we deserve is justice, which is condemnation for sin against a holy God.

Addressing this week's tragedies

- Charlie Kirk's assassination (Sept. 10)
- N. GA Police officer shot in the throat (Friday, Sept. 12)
- Motel manager (Dallas, TX) attacked and decapitated (Friday, Sept. 12)
- Iryna Zarutskya's stabbing to death on a commuter train in Charlotte, NC (Aug. 22)
- Minnesota Speaker of the House, Melissa (& Mark) Hortman (June 14)

Nothing new – The O.T. prophets, John the Baptist, **Jesus**, the disciples, church fathers, JFK, MLK, RFK, and more.

Evil = God-lessness

1. When godless people commit evil acts, we should not be surprised. The inherent nature of mankind is SIN.
2. It's when people commit acts of good, grace, and kindness, that we should be surprised, and it's only because of God's intervention into this world through the person of Jesus Christ, that there is any good that happens in and through us, and in this world.
3. We live in a fallen, broken, sinful world.

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight." - Isaiah 5:20-21

Justice

We cry out for justice, but we are, by nature, under the same condemnation.

When Blood Cries Out

by Jeremiah Knight (The Reformation Resurgence)

This past week, I watched the video of Iryna Zarutskya's brutal murder on the train in Charlotte and also the assassination of Charlie Kirk. My stomach turned, my heart sank, but my soul burned with a single truth: this is man. This is us. This is what it looks like when the mask of culture, civility, and polished appearances is ripped off and the raw heart of fallen humanity is laid bare.

I do not know what verdict the worldly court will hand down on the ones who did this. Perhaps life in prison. Perhaps a death sentence. Perhaps some twisted loophole will even let them walk free. But I know this: there is another court that no man escapes. The righteous Judge is Jesus Christ, and His sentence cannot be delayed, bribed, or overturned. He will repay every man according to his deeds (Romans 2:6).

The blood spilled in those crimes is not silent. Just like Abel's blood, it cries out from the ground (Genesis 4:10). It screams for justice. It demands wrath. And it will have its answer from the throne of God.

But here is the uncomfortable truth that we do not get to stand at a safe distance, shaking our heads at the monsters who did this. The same poison that ran through their veins runs through ours. Christ

said that hatred is murder in seed form (Matthew 5:21–22). Do you feel the weight of that? The evil behind the knife that stabbed Irenya and the bullet fired at Charlie lives in my heart—and in yours. It shows itself in anger, pride, lust, selfishness, greed. We wear suits, hold jobs, build reputations, and call ourselves civilized, but strip away the restraints of law and fear of shame, and the depravity of man comes clawing to the surface. Those videos are not an exception to humanity a mirror of it.

And let us stop lying to ourselves: there are no innocent people. We are not born neutral. We are born guilty. The Bible does not flatter us. It declares that we are “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3), rebels at war with our Maker (Romans 5:10), dead in sin and incapable of pleasing God (Romans 8:7–8). You may not have held the knife or fired the bullet, but you have hated, lied, lusted, and envied and before a holy God, that is enough to damn you.

The world wants to put these murderers in a cage and convince itself that justice is served, while the rest of us are fine. But the cross tears that illusion apart. On the Day of Judgment, there will be no comparison games, no weighing of good deeds against bad. There will only be guilty sinners standing before a holy God, and the only question that matters is this: when your sin is dragged into the light, what will cover you?

And here is where the scandal of grace breaks in. Abel’s blood cried out for vengeance. Christ’s blood cries out for mercy (Hebrews 12:24). The Judge Himself stepped down from the bench, bore the wrath, and died in the place of guilty men. The very One who will judge us is the only One who can save us.

But do not mistake this for sentimentality. If you reject Christ, His blood will not cover you, but it will testify against you. And if you remain outside of Him, you stand in the same category as the murderer you despise. His crime was caught on camera. Yours may only be caught in thought, in word, in secret deeds. But God does not grade on curves. Sin is sin, and wrath is wrath.

I do not know what sentence the earthly judge will pronounce on the murderers of Iryna and Charlie. But I know what the righteous Judge will do. The blood cries out. Civilization is only a mask stretched thin over corruption. And the Day is coming when the mask will be ripped off forever and justice is coming for us all.

And on that Day, there will be no excuses left. No appeals. No jury to sway. Only the voice of the Judge who sees every thought, every secret, every hidden sin. Those outside of Christ will not stand tall with explanations on their lips. They will beg the mountains to fall on them, the rocks to cover them, to hide them “from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb” (Revelation 6:16).

This is not a warning for “others.” This is for me. This is for you. The same nature that produced those murderers lives in us, and apart from Christ, we share the same fate. The only difference between the guilty condemned and the guilty forgiven is the blood of Jesus. Abel’s blood cries out for vengeance. Christ’s blood cries out for mercy. Which one will speak for you on that Day?

He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.