

Gospel Identity: Servants

Review: Gospel Power & Purpose

Discuss: What is Soma doing? Why are we doing it?

Tim Keller: It is typical for Christians to think there are two ways with God—to follow him and do his will or to reject him and do your own thing. Of course ultimately that is true! But there are two basic ways to reject God as savior. One is by rejecting God’s law and living as you see fit. The other is by obeying God’s law with all your might—so as to earn your self-respect and your salvation. *The problem is that people who reject the gospel for moralism look to all eyes as if they are trying to do God’s will.* So it is not enough to simply think there are two ways with God. There are three - religion, non-religion, and the gospel. Irreligion or unbelief is avoiding God as Lord and Savior by ignoring him. Religion or moralism is avoiding God as Lord and Savior by developing a moral righteousness and giving it to God so that then He owes you. But the gospel is not that we develop righteousness and give it to Him, so that then he owes us, but that he developed righteousness through Jesus Christ and gives it to us, so that then we owe him.

Fruit to Root Using the 4 Questions

4. How do I live? (Thorns): How am I living now? Where do I lack fruit of Spirit? What sinful responses or negative emotions am I producing (rotten fruit)?

3. Who am I? (False Identity): What does my rotten fruit say about who I believe I am? Where am I finding my identity, worth, or value?

2. What has he done? (Jesus): What does my rotten fruit and false identity reveal about what I believe God has done (or not done) through Jesus? What do I *functionally* believe about the gospel?

1. Who is God? (Lies): What does all this say about who I believe God is and what I believe God is like? What lies may I be believing about God’s character and nature? What do I desire or worship? What am I looking to for meaning, significance, or security?

4. How do I live? (Fruit): How can I live, because of who God is, what he has done and who I am in Christ? How does the gospel free me to live?

3. Who am I? (Gospel Identity): What is my true identity in Christ? How has God named me, given me worth, value, and significance? Who am I in Christ?

2. What has he done? (Jesus): What aspect of the good news do I need to rejoice in? How does all that Jesus is and all he has done speak into my situation? What resources are mine in Christ?

1. Who is God? (Truth): What is God’s true character and nature, according to the Word? What is he really like? How is he better than everything else I worship? Consider the 4 Gs: God is good, gracious, glorious, and great (see Basics Manual, p.24-25).

Suffering King

Mark 10.35-45: Who is Jesus? What has he come to do? Who are we now? How should we live?

Philippians 2.1-11: Who is Jesus? What has he come to do? Who are we now? How should we live?

Marks of a Servant

Donald Whitney: One of the clearest indications that a person has believed the gospel of Jesus is that his selfish desire to be served begins to be overcome by a Christlike desire to serve. He starts looking for ways to do something for Christ's church, especially in ways that will serve the gospel. As the Holy Spirit permeates people's character with the effects of the gospel, they increasingly develop a mindset of serving in every part of life. They begin to consider their daily occupation in terms of how useful it should be in the service of others instead of simply how it enlarges their wealth or reputation. They give more thought to serving the members of their families. They want to know that their churches are stronger because of their service.

Marks of a Servant of Jesus

Obeying: Am I willing to obey whatever Jesus says about this, no matter how I feel about it?

Submitting: Am I willing to thank Jesus for whatever happens in this area, whether I understand or not?

Relying: Am I depending on something more than I'm depending on Jesus for my hope & meaning?

Expecting: Am I living as though there are problems or limitations in my life that are too big for Jesus?

Discuss: What are the implications of Jesus, our Savior & King, living a life of servanthood and sacrifice for us?

As Worshipers (vertical):

As Disciple (horizontal):

Discuss: Who are you serving and what does that service look like? (Think: Sunday, MC, DNA, neighbors, work...)

Servant Leaders

Tim Keller: Most churches make the mistake of selecting as leaders the confident, the competent, and the successful. But what you most need in a leader is someone who has been broken by the knowledge of his or her sin, and even greater knowledge of Jesus' costly grace. The number one leaders in every church ought to be the people who repent the most fully without excuses, because you don't need any now; the most easily without bitterness; the most publicly and the most joyfully. They know their standing isn't based on their performance but on Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The best leaders are the best repenters.

Discuss: What kind of leaders put the good news on display? How ought that shape our view of leadership?