

A Call to One Another Ministry

Gospel Life in the Body of Christ

Community Bible Chapel

Fall 2014 – Spring 2015



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Lesson 2

The Toxic Nature of an Alternative Gospel

- I. One Another Ministry – Belief #1 Review
- II. The Challenge to Belief #1 – An Alternative Gospel

Goals of the Class

1. **Identify**, discuss and validate the **core biblical beliefs** that should direct our ministry to one another in the trials of life.
2. **Compare** these core biblical beliefs with the **beliefs that lie behind** why we embrace professional Christian and Biblical counseling.
3. Address the following question:
How competent are we, ourselves, to minister during trials?

Pressing
issues
behind
the call

Who do
we call
and
why?



Question

How competent are we, ourselves, to receive any calls?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



A Call to One Another Ministry

Gospel Life in the Body of Christ

One Another Ministry Belief #1



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A Christian has been given LIFE in Christ



One Another Ministry – Worldview Belief #1

A Christian has been given **LIFE** in Christ

Who we call for help and the answers we are seeking are significantly influenced by our understanding of the gospel. By grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, a Christian has been given NEW, complete resurrection LIFE in Christ. We have literally been “twice born”, and this resurrection life in the Son (zoe) is fundamentally different than the universal center of our experiences that call life under the sun (psuche).



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Life?

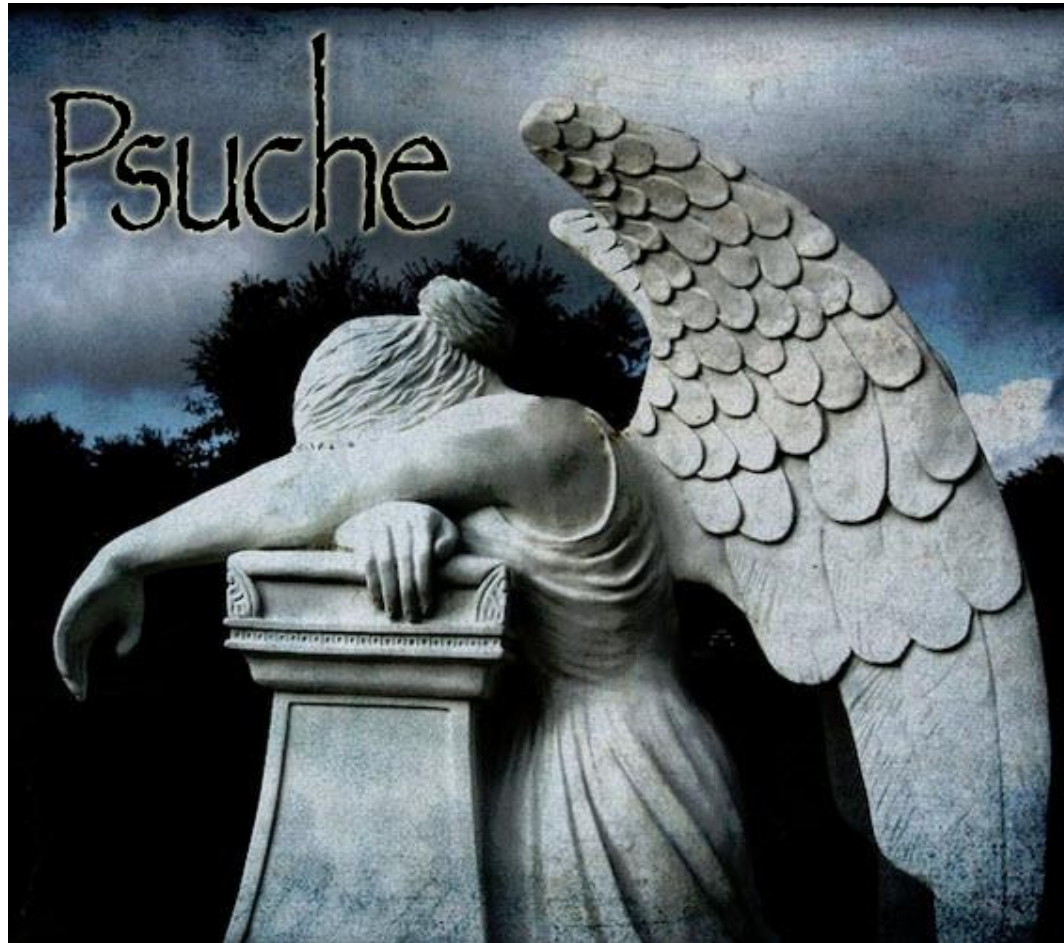
1. Life under the sun - **Psuche**

2. Life in the Son - **Zoe**



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The Domain of Death Under the Sun



Resurrection Life in the Son



John 3:3-6

Jesus answered and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again (lit. *from above*) he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” NASB



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John 5:24-26

Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent me, has eternal **life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into **life**.

Truly, truly I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will **live**.

For just as the Father has **life** in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have **life** in Himself; NASB



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John 6:67-68

So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal **life**.” NASB



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I John 5:12

He who has the Son has the **life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the **life**. NASB



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Gospel Life in the Son – Zoe Reinforced

- In the life of Christ
- In the miracles of Christ
- In the language of death for believers – sleep
- In the language of our home for believers – tents
- In the language of directing our lives
- In the language of directing our prayers



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Ephesians 1:18-20

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

These are in accordance with working of the strength of His might which He brought about **in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.** NASB



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Conclusion – Two calls can be made

One is influenced by LIFE UNDER THE SUN

One is influenced by LIFE IN THE SON

One is driven and affected by me at its center

One is centered and based on my joy with the presence of Christ

One is impacted by the circumstances and cares of this world and how they have created value and become attachments to me

One is impacted by the Holy Spirit, my brothers and sisters around me and my longing to please and draw near to Him



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One Another Ministry – Worldview Belief #1

A Christian has been given **LIFE** in Christ

Who we call for help and the answers we are seeking are significantly influenced by our understanding of the gospel...
...this resurrection life in the Son (zoe) is fundamentally different than the universal center of our experiences that call life under the sun (psuche).

The Challenge – The Toxic Nature of Another Gospel

Two Sisters-



Christless Christianity by Michael Horton

“ The **therapeutic gospel** is the self-esteem gospel... our purpose is to enjoy life and be happy and God is here to meet our needs...

God wants us to feel good about ourselves.”

Christless Christianity by Michael Horton

“Does Christ come to boost our ego or to crucify our ego and raise us up as new creatures with our identity in Him?”

“Self-realization, self-fulfillment, and self-help are all contemporary twists on an old heresy, which Paul identified as works-righteousness.”

“America is largely oriented to what happens inside of us, in our own personal experience, rather than what God has done for us in history.”



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The Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler with Jared Wilson

“The moralistic, therapeutic deism passing for Christianity in many of the churches these young adults grew up in includes talk about Jesus and about being good and avoiding bad – especially about feeling good about oneself – and God factored into all of that, but **the gospel message simply wasn’t there.**”



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The Therapeutic Gospel

Who Are We? Needs, Longings, and the Image of God in Man

by Ed Welch, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*

- Freud started it – need-deficit model – initially came out of biology/medicine - “need for sexual expression”
- Behaviorists continued – basic needs – Maslow
- All areas of secular psychology address experience of NEEDS – psychological needs is distinctly American – emphasis on the individual
- Popular view – problems arise out of unmet needs



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The Therapeutic Gospel

Who Are We? Needs, Longings, and the Image of God in Man

by Ed Welch, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*

- Christian theorists – these “needs” are met in Christ
- Seems biblical – Christ is a friend, loving Father – we do experience a sense of meaningfulness in knowing God’s love. Christ seems to be an answer to our problems
- Christ fills us with identity, significance and purpose – in essence, makes us feel good about ourselves
- **Isn’t the gospel, though, designed to obliterate our preoccupation with ourselves?**



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The Therapeutic Gospel

Who Are We? Needs, Longings, and the Image of God in Man

by Ed Welch, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*

- Our deepest problem is not longings and needs, it is sin
- Christ is not our “need meeter”, He is our Redeemer
- Relationships are not mutual need meeting (marriage, friendship, dating, etc.)
- We love so we can imitate Christ and glorify Him
- God is to be praised not just for what He has done for me, but for who He is – in all of His perfections
- In brief, the center of gravity for need-based relationships is ME, instead of God



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What about BoB?



Biblical Personalities

The **Totality** of our Behavioral and Emotional Tendencies

1. **Slave to Sin**

2. **Slave to Christ**

Not **Primarily** Type A, dominant, introvert, passive, phlegmatic, steady, friendly, or A Man from Mars

Romans 6:15-22

“¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹ Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal **life**. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal **life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.” NASB



Question

What are the pressing issues behind the calls?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



Question

What are the pressing issues behind books we read or programs we attend?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



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Discernment – Purpose Driven Life

There is nothing here about having a closer walk with God. As a matter of fact, there is little promised that would not be found in a secular book about finding purpose. Experience will be the ultimate measure of whether this book has succeeded. It does not promise to change the heart or mind.

The book is based on a false premise that there is supernatural value to a 40-day study. The author says that "whenever God wanted to prepare someone for his purposes he took 40 days." This is simply not true.

Page 25 seems to summarize the thesis of the book. It says "We discover that meaning and purpose *only* when we make God the reference point of our lives." This seems to say that if the reader finds God he will also find himself and his purpose. This is not the gospel!

Discernment – Purpose Driven Life

There is a serious impact to Warren's use of so many translations. It shows his view of the inspiration and sufficiency of Scripture. It seems that he does not believe that the Bible as God wrote it is sufficient for people today. He must believe that a very loose paraphrase like The Message can impact people in a way that the real translations cannot. He shows that he is not a faithful expositor of the Bible.

The author does not at any time provide a clear explanation of the gospel message. On page 58 he says, "*Real life begins by committing yourself completely to Jesus Christ*" but never comes closer than that. He never writes about such crucial doctrines as man's sinfulness and need for a Savior or the work of Jesus. He never mentions the importance Christ's life, the cross or the empty tomb. Yet on page 58 we find him leading the prayer of "Jesus, I believe in you and I receive you" and then saying "Welcome to the family of God!" How can a person become a Christian without any understanding of his own sinfulness or of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf?

Discernment – Purpose Driven Life

Warren's gospel seems to be one of purpose. He teaches that man's greatest problem is purposelessness and this book will remedy that situation by helping the reader discover his purpose. Needless to say, this is not the gospel as taught by the Bible. The Bible teaches that man's greatest problem is that he is a sinner and is alienated from God. Purposelessness is insignificant compared to the possibility of an eternity in hell.

The author seems to fall into a trap where he sees teachings about purpose in parts of the Bible that simply are not about purpose. For example, on page 30 he talks about the hopelessness of a life lived without purpose. In discussing this under the heading of "the benefits of purpose-driven living" he quotes the book of Job where Job says "*My life drags by - day after hopeless day.*" Of course familiarity with the book of Job will show that to say Job was bemoaning lack of purpose is ridiculous. A man who has had everything he owned and everyone he loved taken from him and is covered in sores is not likely to be upset by a lack of purpose in his life.

Discernment – Purpose Driven Life

There are several conclusions we can draw. This book does contain some valuable teachings. Unfortunately it also contains a large amount of false teachings. Most alarming is the author's blatant disregard for the proper use of Scripture. He continually uses Bible passages out of context and assigns them false meanings. He seems to view Scripture as a tool to be used and abused as he sees fit rather than seeing it as God's holy, perfect, unchangeable standard that must be used carefully.

Mr. Tim Challies: www.challies.com

Discernment – Purpose Driven Life

As for the premise of living a life driven by purpose, I remain uncertain as to whether this is really what the Bible teaches. It is interesting to examine the word "driven" in the Bible. We see that the word generally has negative connotations in Scripture. It most often denotes an active force pushing and controlling a passive subject. For example, a ship is driven by the wind and the enemies of the Israelites were driven out of the land. On the other hand the word "led" most often speaks of a believer choosing to follow God's ways through knowing Him better. For instance the Israelites were led by a pillar of cloud which they chose to follow and Jesus taught us to ask "do not lead us into temptation." So perhaps we are not to be *driven* by purpose but should instead be *led* by God.

Mr. Tim Challies: www.challies.com



Discernment – Love Languages

“Could it be that deep inside hurting couples exists an invisible ‘emotional love tank’ with its gauge on empty? Could the misbehavior, withdrawal, harsh words, and critical spirit occur because of that empty tank? If we could find a way to fill it, could the marriage be reborn? Could that tank be the key that makes marriage work?”

Gary Chapman, *The Five Love Languages*



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Discernment – Love Languages

- His advice seems so doable. The problems of life are very fixable with a little bit of education and a little bit of effort.
- Our needs are significant and can be addressed
- People don't really need help and power from outside themselves
- No need for repentance or forgiveness
- The marriages in his book don't need Jesus' blood, sweat and tears.



Discernment – Boundaries

The *Boundary* series contains biblical references throughout as a means to illustrate Scripture's emphasis on boundaries, but psychological theory seems to be the basic reason that this metaphor receives attention. Theory and practice always join. In this case, the theory is the psychological construct of separation-individuation. This developmental theory assumes that the critical task of childhood is to develop an identity separate from others, and only nurtured and affirmed children can establish a clear sense of "me" and "not-me." With this developmental scheme as a starting point, the boundaries imagery naturally becomes a dominant interpretive grid for all of life.

Ed Welch, "Boundaries in Relationships", *Journal of Biblical Counseling*

Discernment – Boundaries

Like most psychological theories, *Boundaries* has kernels of reliable observation, otherwise a theory would garner no interest whatsoever. But Scripture indicates that there is a much more profound developmental task. That is, how can we grow in wisdom, learn the fear of the Lord, and understand how God intends human life to be lived.

When boundaries become a lifestyle, we are going to think about self-protection more than love. The overarching image (*of Scripture*) is that we should break down boundaries between ourselves and others rather than erect them.

Ed Welch, “Boundaries in Relationships”, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*

Discernment

- Stephen Ministry
- Celebrate Recovery
- The Total Transformation Program
- Wild at Heart
- Tim LaHaye – Spirit Controlled Temperament
- Most popular current books on marriage/relationships
- Most popular current books on the spiritual life
- Even some current writing on One Another type of ministry
- Anything written by Joel Osteen

and so much more...

Therapeutic gospel Orientation:

Moves us towards

self-worship

different anthropology

(personality types, temperaments, strengths and weaknesses, syndromes, disorders, recovery, etc.)

sanctification by external morality &

behavior (works)

programs and groups

spiritual deadness

The Domain of Death Under the Sun



Biblical Gospel Orientation:

Moves us towards

worship of God

seeing ourselves as slaves of Christ

walking by faith

prayer and the Word

spiritual life



Resurrection Life in the Son



The Therapeutic Gospel produces:

Love for Self

The Biblical Gospel produces:

Love for God

Love for Others

Biblical Gospel Orientation:

Moves us towards

self-worship

worship of God

different anthropology

seeing ourselves as slaves of Christ

sanctification by works

walking by faith

programs and groups

prayer and the Word

spiritual deadness

spiritual life

Question

What are the pressing issues behind the calls?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.





**Counseling
world**



Body of Christ

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