

4/4/25 SP25 CO Retreat | Sea Choi (COSD Staff)

SP25 CO Retreat Fri. Night | Theme Intro: Rooted In Identity

Our Vision

"Introduce people to Jesus and see lives transformed"

Our Mission

"Glorify God by building Christ-centered leaders on the campus for the renewal of San Diego and beyond"

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. **Colossians 2:6-7**

Rooted In Identity

1. Why it's important to begin at identity

"You do what you do because of what you think of you" - Craig Groeschel

2. How a rooted identity in Christ begins

"The gospel is not just the ABCs but the A to Z of the Christian life. It is inaccurate to think the gospel is what saves non-Christians, and then Christians mature by trying hard to live according to biblical principles. It is more accurate to say that we are saved by believing the gospel, and then we are transformed in every part of our minds, hearts, and lives by believing the gospel more and more deeply as life goes on." - Tim Keller

⁶ Therefore, **as you received Christ Jesus the Lord**, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, **just as you were taught**, abounding in thanksgiving. *Colossians 2:6-7*

just as you were taught = the Gospel

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. *Ephesians 2:4-9*

3. What are the implications?

⁶ Therefore, **as you received Christ Jesus the Lord**, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, **abounding in thanksgiving**. *Colossians 2:6-7*

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. *Colossians 2:1-3*

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. *1 John 4:10 (NIV)*

“If I am ‘in Christ’, I will become ‘like-Christ’”

SP25 CO Retreat Sat. Morning | Community in the Body of Christ

Community is:

1. Created Not Contracted

Returning to creation in Genesis 1:26

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **Genesis 1:26**

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC):

Q. 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There be three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties

WLC 9 Cross References

1 John 5:7; Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 10:30.

² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **Genesis 1:2**

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **Colossians 1:15-17**

We were created to be in community.

2. Built Not Found

derived from *The Folly of Looking For Community* - Eugene Park

“One cannot ‘find’ community, because it isn’t something to be discovered. Community is never found, only built.” -Eugene Park

a) don’t be an architect; rather be a builder

“Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial. God hates this wishful dreaming because it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. Those who dream of this idolized

community demand that it be fulfilled by God, by others and by themselves. They enter the community of Christians with their demands set up by their own law, and judge one another and God accordingly. It is not we who build. Christ builds the church. Whoever is mindful to build the church is surely well on the way to destroying it, for he will build a temple to idols without wishing or knowing it. We must confess he builds. We must proclaim, he builds. We must pray to him, and he will build. We do not know his plan. We cannot see whether he is building or pulling down. It may be that the times which by human standards are the times of collapse are for him the great times of construction. It may be that the times which from a human point are great times for the church are times when it's pulled down. It is a great comfort which Jesus gives to his church. You confess, preach, bear witness to me, and I alone will build where it pleases me. Do not meddle in what is not your providence. Do what is given to you, and do it well, and you will have done enough.... Live together in the forgiveness of your sins. Forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

b) building requires friction not comfort

c) build the foundation on Christ

“We are desperate to find community in hopes that it will fill some empty part of our souls. Yet no community—even the church—can be our ultimate source of life. Rather, the church exists to remind us of where the fountain of life can be truly found.” - Eugene Park

¹⁹ “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,” *Ephesians 2:19-20*

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. *Colossians 2:6-7*

We are called by God to build His household according to His plans and scripture, not to look and find a community that fits our own plans.

3. Redeemed Not Resigned

² And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. ***Ephesians 2:1-10***

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ***Isaiah 64:6***

¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ***Mark 10:18-19***

Pursuing God is more important than any communal pursuits in the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. When or how have you viewed “community” or relationships as a contract?
2. Which of the three points do you resonate with the most and why?
 - a. don’t be an architect; rather be a builder
 - b. building requires friction, not comfort
 - c. build the foundation on Christ
3. If God pursues and redeems us even when we turn away, how should that shape the way we approach difficult or broken relationships in “community”?

SP25 CO Retreat Sat. TedxCOSD 1 | Rooted in Dignity: Made in the Image of God

Dignity: state or quality of being worthy of honor and respect

imago dei - We have dignity because God made us in his own image.

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Image: an external representation of something else

Images are created to image:

When an artist makes a sculpture of someone, they make it **to say something about that someone.**

We image God, or communicate things about our Creator, through our unique capacity for things like reason, morality, and relationship.

Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.

Genesis 9:6

God assigns eternal significance to temporal creatures.

Sin does not cancel the eternal significance of God. Sin does not **destroy** our dignity, but rather **deface** it.

Mirror analogy:

“I was created like a mirror. And a mirror that was supposed to be 45 degrees with the clear reflective side pointing upward so that as God shone on it at the 45 degree angle, it would bounce off, and be reflected out into the world. And at the fall, Satan persuaded me that my image is more beautiful than God’s image, and so I flip the mirror over. Now the back side is toward God. It doesn’t reflect anything. Instead, the mirror casts a shadow in the shape of itself on the ground, and I fell in love with the shadow.”

“And in salvation, two things happen. The mirror gets turned around, and we see the glory of God again, and the defilement that had gone over the face of it gets wiped off gradually, and we begin to reflect God. So I think being created in the image of God means that we image God. We live in a way, we think in a way, we feel in a way, we speak in a way that calls attention to the brightness of the glory of God.”

When we recognize that our own dignity comes from God, it humbles us to **think, speak, and act in a way that calls attention to the brightness of God’s glory.**

Go be a mirror!

SP25 CO Retreat Sat. TedxCOSD 2 | Rooted in Truth: Fruit to Root

Gospel Fluency - Jeff Vanderstelt (author and Pastor)

"I'm an unbeliever, and you are too."

1. Main Idea:

The **roots** of our faith produce the **fruit** of our life. Roots meaning what we believe about the character of God, which produces the outflow of our life.

2. Why does this matter?

3. We need **gospel transformation**, not just **behavior modification**

"Beneath every sin is a failure to believe a truth about God." - Tim Chester

The core idea is that all sin originates from false beliefs and a lack of trust in Jesus. Instead of addressing these root issues, we often focus only on changing outward behavior. True transformation, however, comes from confronting the deeper unbelief beneath our actions. For instance, anxiety over an exam might reveal a deeper struggle to believe in our identity and approval in Christ, rather than a simple fear of failure.

Believing lies about God leads to believing lies about ourselves, since we're made in His image. When we focus only on behavior change, we rely on our own strength instead of God's truth. This often leads to denial or shallow fixes, like trying harder or minimizing the issue, rather than recognizing the deeper spiritual battle at play.

"When we address only the behaviors and push people to change what they do without a change in what they believe, the weight falls on us rather than God to handle the problems of the world and deal with the brokenness caused by sin."

-Jeff Vanderstelt

Satan is **REAL**. Sin is **BAD**. Death is **INEVITABLE**.

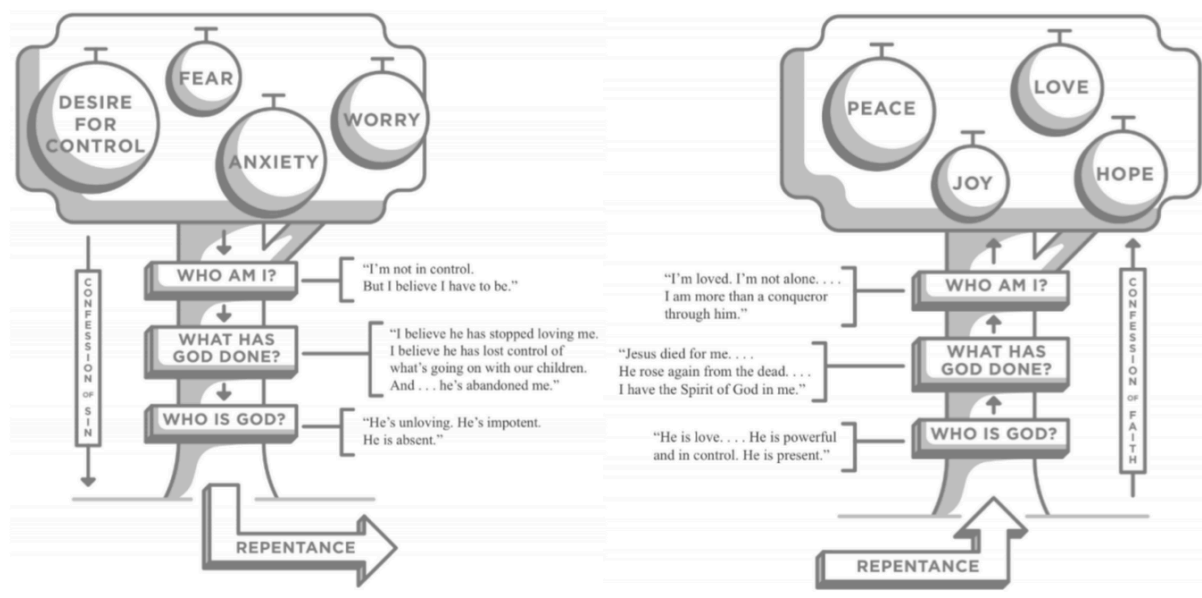
⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ **rooted** and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. **Colossians 2:6-7**

If we're not grounded in the truths of Christ, our faith can't grow strong—our roots end up anchored in lies and unbelief from the enemy instead of in Him.

We can freely be honest about what's going on in our hearts because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. God isn't surprised or overwhelmed by our unbelief—He already knows and can handle it. Confession is simply naming what we're currently believing.

The Fruit to Root process helps us trace our current struggles (fruit) down to what we believe about God (root), leading us to repentance. The Root to Fruit flips the process—starting with what’s true about God and working outward to produce godly fruit in our lives.

Fruit to Root Exercise:

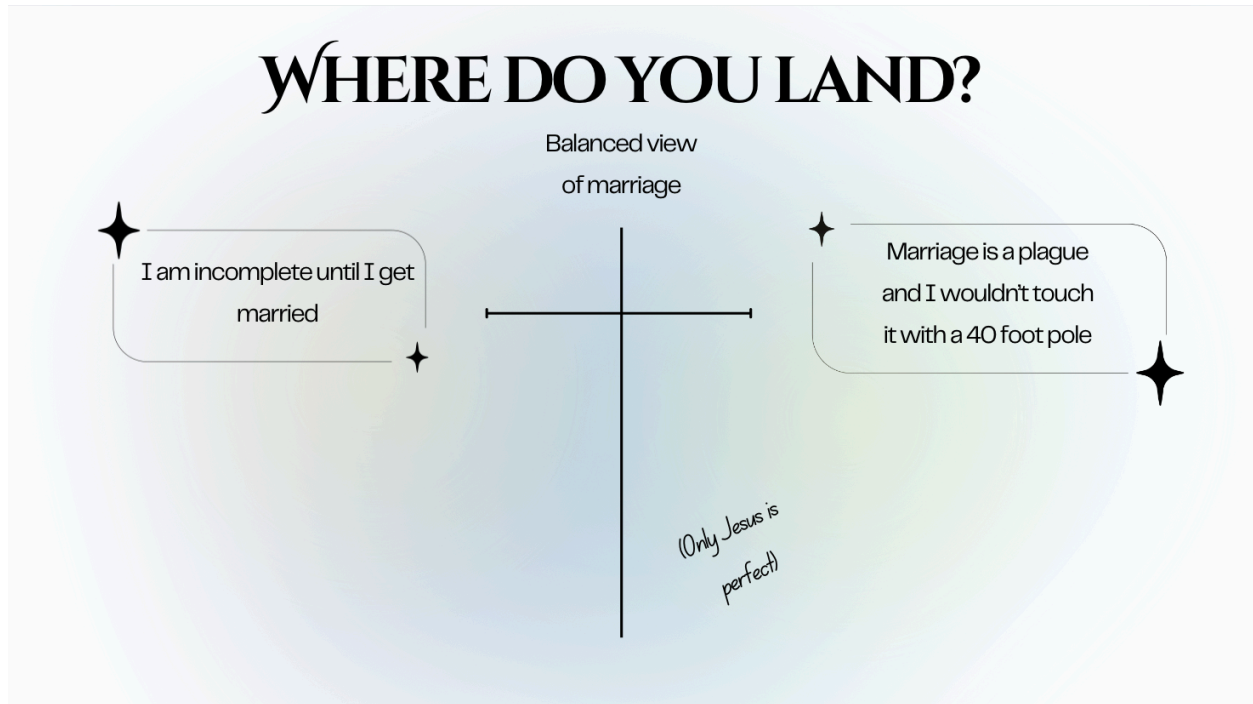


The Christian life is a continual journey of repenting and believing the Gospel. Sanctification is God’s ongoing work in us, and our role is to keep turning from unbelief to belief in the truth of the Gospel, living in the freedom Christ has won for us.

SP25 CO Retreat Sat. Afternoon | Stop The Heartbreak

A Gospel-Centered Model for Modern Dating

A balanced view of marriage is somewhere in the middle: but remember only Jesus is perfect!



Why start a dating talk with **marriage**?

It's important to begin with the end in mind.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ***Ephesians 5:25-28***

We need a **spiritual friend + lover**.

The Tunnel of Love: A Dating Model by Janie Collins

1. Mystery Phase
2. Dating
3. Serious Dating
4. Engagement
5. Marriage

Marriage

Definition: A spiritual friend and lover for the journey to heaven.

Main causes of heartbreak: Sin.

Engagement

Definition: There's a ring on THAT finger.

Main causes of heartbreak: Not making it to the "finish line" physically. Dealing with future in-laws

Serious Dating

Definition: At least one member of the couple has started to talk about or at least wants to talk about marriage.

Main causes of heartbreak: Lack of alignment on core issues. Fear of commitment.

Is he/she the one? Evaluate your partner:

The 4 G's: God, Gut, Glands, Goals

Don't be afraid to HONESTLY evaluate.

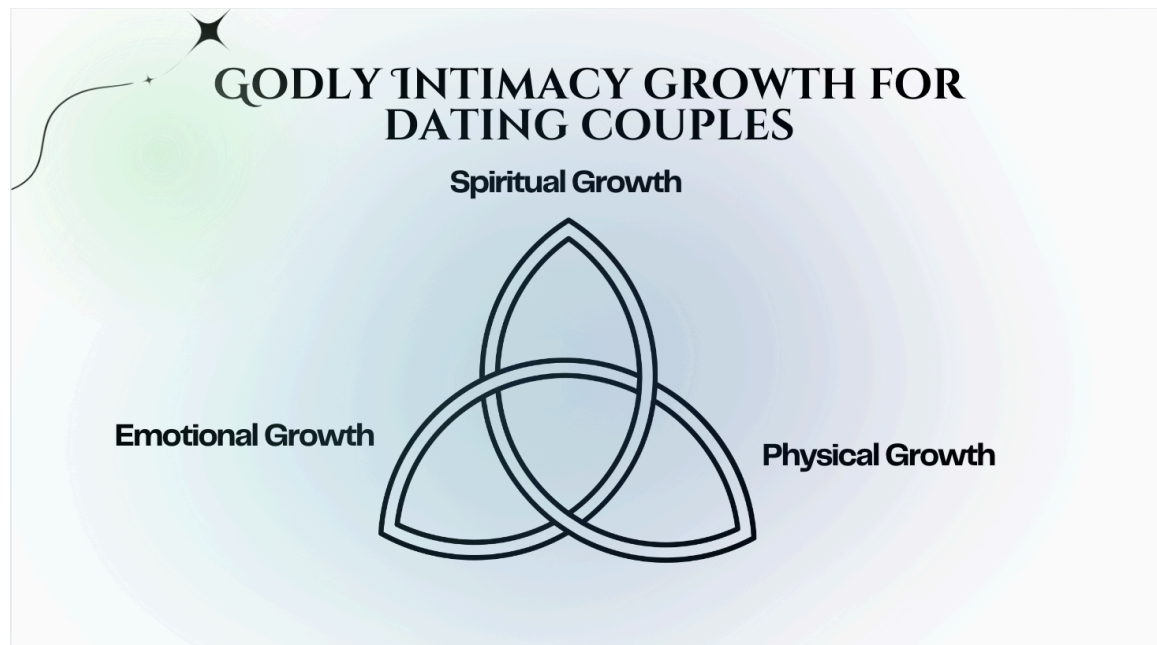
Both the **side-by-side** as well as the **face-to-face**:

Most of your life will be side-by-side; you want to be with someone who you can do life with alongside one another, not just when things are going well face-to-face (e.g. on a nice date - of course things will feel like they are going well!).

Dating

Definition: Boyfriend/Girlfriend.

Main causes of heartbreak: Improper growth in intimacy. Isolation/Obsession.



Date. In. Community.

Give others a relationship “house key”. If necessary, the car keys too.

In a Godly relationship, people should be able to be “over” at your house all the time. People should be able to come and go and there should be nothing wrong with that. Dating in community in this context means to be held accountable by your community, to not isolate.

Mystery Phase

Definition: First it’s butterflies, flirting, and locking eyes from across a room, then it’s catching feels, undefined one-on-one hang outs, and situationships. It’s confusing, terrifying, exhilarating, and... mystifying. Welcome to the mystery phase. The best and the worst part of dating.

Main causes of heartbreak: Poor leadership, both of yourself and the other person. Cowardice.

Good News for Heartbreakers

No matter how you’ve failed in dating—whether by hurting others or being hurt—Jesus came for you. The Gospel reminds us that while we will stumble in love, we are not defined by our mistakes. In Jesus, there is forgiveness, healing, and hope. He came to save heartbreakers and the heartbroken alike.

SP25 CO Retreat Sat. Evening | Rooted In Mission

God's heart is rooted in mission. Similar to spy movies like the James Bond series where there is a mission, God has a purpose, a plan, and a method for accomplishment.

1. Why is there mission?

4 Point Gospel: Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

God created humanity in His image and blessed them from the beginning. The foundation of our relationship with God was designed to be one of blessing, not burden—He called it good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:26-28

God commands man to flourish and enjoy all that He made, except for one tree.

God warns us that disobedience would bring about curses.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 2:15-17

God's plans and purpose is worship and flourishing for image bearers. He blesses his image bearers with favor, protection, support, guidance, love, life, and relationship.

4 Point Gospel: Fall

Sin is a curse. Man disobeys God in Genesis 3 by eating the forbidden fruit.

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:6-7

The real temptation in the garden wasn't the fruit itself, but the promise that it would make humans "like God." In eating it, mankind tried to take God's place, reversing the designed order. Obedience brought blessing, but disobedience brought a curse.

Key Takeaways of Sin's Effects:

1. Sin affects all creation
2. Sin requires God's judgement
3. Sin breeds corruption and brokenness

God's mission: to send a curse breaker

In Genesis 3:15, God curses the serpent.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring[e] and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:15

In the book *The Gospel According to Satan: Eight Lies About God That Sound Like the Truth* (pg. 69), the author Jared C. Wilson explains it as:

"At first glance, this statement does not appear to be a word of hope but a declaration of war. God's word declares his hostility, not toward man or the creation but toward Satan and the reign of sin and death."

"From this point forward, two opposing forces are at war in the world: the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness, the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent."

The conflict is "between God and Satan, between God and the kingdom of sin and death. It is between obedience and disobedience. Human beings, the seed spoken of in Genesis 3:15, are either the friends of God or the enemies of God."

below is a relevant excerpt on the Holy Spirit and Jesus at opposition to Satan from Pastor Paul's preaching on Mark 3:22-30 | The Unforgivable Sin, taught on April 6th, 2025:

Understanding what it means

²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” —

To better understand "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit":

- This is not saying or thinking something terrible about the Holy Spirit.
- What the Holy Spirit does: convicts us of our sin and need for Jesus so as to go to Jesus for forgiveness

Understanding the meaning:

The unforgivable sin, which Jesus speaks of as defying and denying what the Holy Spirit does, refers to the sin of rejecting Jesus in such a way to never come to Him for forgiveness of sin.

Such was the danger with the scribes in our passage.

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” ²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

Andrew Le Peau: "Jesus explains to the teachers of the law that it wouldn't make any sense for him to be casting our demons as an emissary of Satan. That would be like a king intentionally inciting civil war in his own country. Satan is evil, but he is not so dumb as to deploy such a strategy."

²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.

²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man.

Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Jesus is saying that the strong man is Satan. He has taken captive all of us with our sin, until Jesus as the Son of God comes as the one who is greater than the strong man.

*Technical Aside:

Pastor Paul mentioned that the word plunder in v27 is the same as in the Exodus account, likely referring to Exodus 12:36. Linguistically, this is not true, as the Greek *diarpazō* “to plunder violently” and the Hebrew “*natzal*” “to snatch/rescue” mean two different things. However, there is a thematic connection in the sense that in Exodus, Israel “plunders” Egypt on their way to freedom — a reversal of power where the oppressed take from the oppressors. In Mark 3:27, Jesus binds the “strong man” (Satan) to plunder his house — another reversal where Jesus frees people from Satan’s domain. In both, God or His people defeats the oppressor and takes what the oppressor held — whether Israelites or spiritual captives.

Mark 3 ESV

nimself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Found 2 verses

Found 2 verses

Found 194 verses

Found 194 verses

2. What is the mission?

God's mission is to break the curse and redeem His people. One issue though:

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." **Galatians 3:10**

Because we are all sinners descended from Adam and Eve, our sinful flesh is not able to fulfill the law.

4 Point Gospel: Redemption

God solves this problem by sending Jesus, where the Creator God enters into His own creation to save it. Sin requires God's judgement, so Christ took God's judgement upon Himself. Sin breeds corruption, and because Christ took our place, He was treated as corrupt:

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" **Galatians 3:13**

The Old Testament is an unfinished story—a divine promise in waiting. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise, the one in whom the entire narrative finds its meaning. When we look at Jesus, we catch a glimpse of the final chapter: the restoration of God's good creation, the defeat of sin, and even the triumph of the body over death. He reveals God's heart and intentions—God has always desired to dwell with His people in intimate covenant relationship, and Jesus, "Emmanuel," is the clearest expression of that desire. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells one unified story of God's mission to be with His people. And through Jesus—by His death and resurrection—we are brought into that story. He not only completes it, but makes it personal: Jesus is the one who makes God's story our story.

Illustration: When Life Gives You Tangerines (Hae-nyeo)

In the Korean drama *When the Camellia Blooms*, there's a gut-wrenching scene where a little girl named Hae-nyuh tries to earn 100 won—just enough money to buy a single abalone. But she doesn't want it for herself. She says, "I want to give mom 100 won so I can buy a day with her." That simple line carries the full weight of a child's longing—her desperation just to spend one more day with the person she loves. It breaks your heart. The innocence, the sacrifice, the pain—all packed into that tiny wish.

Now imagine the depth of that love multiplied infinitely.

Jesus didn't just pay a small price for a single day with us. He paid the ultimate price—His own life—not for a moment, not for a day, but to purchase every day with us for eternity. Where Hae-nyuh's longing points to love in its purest human form, Christ's sacrifice shows us love in its divine fullness.

He didn't just buy a day. He bought forever.

The emotional pull of that scene in the show gives us a glimpse of how costly and beautiful real love is. And if that kind of sacrificial love from a child to a parent can move us so deeply, how much more should we be moved by the love of a Savior who died to be with us forever?

4 Point Gospel: New Creation

The beginning of Genesis 1-2 parallels the end of Revelation 21-22 in the New Creation.

The Bible opens and closes with creation. Genesis 1-2 introduces us to the original creation—God’s good world, the Garden, the river of life, and the Tree of Life. Revelation 21-22 echoes these themes, showing us that the end of the story is a new beginning. John intentionally mirrors the imagery of Genesis to describe the final fulfillment of God’s promises. The river of life and the Tree of Life reappear, now in a restored and eternal form. The heavenly city descends, and once again, God dwells with His people, walking with them in perfect communion.

“The goal of redemption is nothing less than the restoration of the entire cosmos.” Michael Williams, “A Restorational Alternative to Augustinian Verticalist Eschatology,” *Pro Rege* 20 (1992): 16.

3. How is the mission accomplished?

“In a post-Christendom world that has become a mission field right outside the sanctuary door, Christian community is about gathering and forming a people, and spiritual transformation is about both individual and corporate growth, *so that they - together - participate in Christ’s mission to establish the kingdom of God ‘On Earth as it is in heaven.’*” Tod Bolsinger, *Canoeing the Mountains*

We are called to receive and believe.

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. **Colossians 2:6-7**

Show and Tell - there are 5 commissions

Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:7-8, which is today’s emphasis

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **Acts 1:6-8**

A challenge to us to engage the mission field on campus before we go abroad.

Matthew 9 - compassion for the lost and pray for laborers

Discussion Questions:

1. If you were a secret agent, what would be your go-to gadget?
2. When you think about the word “missions”, what comes to mind?
3. Where is your current “mission field”? How can you begin to engage your “mission field” this Spring Quarter?