

## Describing the Good News

### Fourteen Aspects of the Gospel

People sometimes want the good news of the Christian gospel defined. I can't do that, but here is a description of some aspects of the Gospel and what it means for me, based on a range of Biblical passages.

- It is about **JESUS**: He calls me to follow Him, walk with Him, share His life and join in His mission of love and life.
- It is about a new **LIFE**: following Jesus means an end to the life I lived before I met Him.
- It is about a new **COMMUNITY**: I am now a child of God, a member of His family, a part of the Body of Christ.
- It is about **ACCEPTANCE**: Jesus calls me to follow Him as I am - I don't need to get cleaned up and sorted out first.
- It is about **RELATIONSHIPS**: about other people, not about me, my destination or my status.
- It is about **LOVE**: love God, love your neighbour, love yourself; rejoice that God loves me unconditionally.
- It is about **FAITH**: believing that Jesus can be trusted, that He tells the truth and means what He says in commanding me to follow Him.
- It is about **TRANSFORMATION**: God's Spirit works within to change me as I follow Jesus.
- It is about **TRUST**: believing that God wants the best for me, and is able to achieve it.
- It is about **OBEDIENCE**: God does not force Himself on me, I have to respond to Him.
- It is about **RESURRECTION**: the only way to experience resurrection life is to be willing to die to my own plans and purposes.
- It is about God's **GRACE**: what He can do and what He offers to do for me, not what I deserve.
- It is about God's **POWER**: not about my ability, my faith or my goodness.
- It is about God's **KINGDOM**: about God's will being done in every area of life, not just the religious bits.

This is, I believe, all true, but the focus here is wrong – the Gospel is not about me, or about what God has done for me: it is about what He has done and continues to do for the whole world, for every person and for all creation.

## ***Next steps***

This was written by Paul Hazelden as a contribution to the *Strong Foundations* exploration. You are welcome to use it and distribute it how you like, but feedback would be appreciated.

- Is it helpful?
- Would you change anything?
- Would you like to talk about how we can learn from each other about how best to follow Jesus where we are?

You can contact me through the web form at mad-bristol or join the conversation on the *Strong Foundations* site.

- Web form: <http://mad-bristol.org.uk/contact/>
- Strong Foundations: <http://strongfoundations.pbworks.com>

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