

What Is the Gospel?
Keeping the Cross Central
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Since the time of the fall, people have been trying to save themselves in ways that make sense to them or is convenient for them, rather than listening to and submitting to God. They have been trying to figure out how to make salvation work apart from the cross of Jesus Christ. The same is still true today. One of the greatest dangers that the church faces is the temptation to rethink and rearticulate the gospel in a way that makes its center something other than the death of Jesus on the cross in place of sinners.

Main idea: For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

1. The cross keeps us from generalizing the gospel.
2. The cross keeps us from minimizing the gospel.
3. The cross keeps us from changing the gospel.

The Apostle Paul was able to share the gospel in the simplest of terms. He did not need eloquence or philosophy or political ideology. All he needed was the cross. His words did not articulate gospel in terms of human wisdom. He could use the simplest of words because he was telling the simplest of stories. He told how the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus was true. He told of how that truth had changed him, and then he offered that changed life, a life lived in the power of the Spirit of God, as evidence. What God did for Paul, He is willing to do for you.