

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
“Good News 101 – Gratitude & Grace”
Drue Warner
11-23-25

RECAP – What is the Good News? Who are we as a result (i.e., vision, mission, beliefs, behaviors, etc.)?

- **Vision** – *“to experience and express LOVE from God and to others.”*
 - **Verse** – The verse that undergirds our vision is, *Galatians 5:6b, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*
- **Mission** – Our mission is *“to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship.”*

THE GOOD NEWS

GNC BELIEFS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. I’m broken. | I’m really broken and I need help. |
| 2. Jesus is perfect. | Jesus is perfect and He is my help. |
| 3. Jesus is the only way... | to healing in my relationship with God. |
| 4. The Holy Spirit is my power... | to live as a follower of Jesus. |
| 5. God calls me into community... | to submit and to serve His Church |

GNC BEHAVIORS (as a result of what we believe)

1. Serving others (valuing others greater than myself)
2. Reconciling relationships (building bridges, not burning them)
3. **Giving generously (blessing others with my time, talent, and treasure)**

LAST WEEK... Generosity (summary)

- Generosity starts with God.
- Our generosity is simply a response to God’s abundant generosity towards us.
- The Good News sets us free from a “scarcity” mindset and enables us to give of ourselves in a lavish and liberal way.

THIS WEEK... Good News 101 Summary – What is the Good News?

The Good News is made evident in God’s most generous gift

He who did not spare his own Son, but **gave him up for us all**—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? – Romans 8:32

God’s generosity resulted in Jesus’ poverty (it cost Him)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. - 2 Corinthians 8:9

What is the Good News?

G.R.A.C.E.

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Jesus became sin, so we could be righteous.

"God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." - 2 Corinthians 5:21

Great Mercy – New Birth – Living Hope

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade... Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God."
- 1 Peter 1:3-4a, 2:10

The Wordless Book - *Understanding the Good News!*



GREEN - God made it all.

God made everything. Nothing was made without Him making it.
– John 1:3



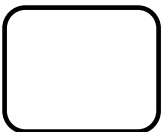
BLACK - We lost it all.

Everyone has sinned, and we all fall short of God's glory.
– Romans 3:23



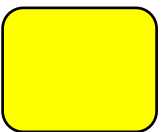
RED - Jesus did it all.

In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. – Ephesians 1:7



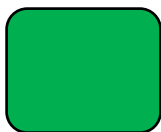
WHITE - We get it all.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." – John 11:25



GOLD - God will restore it all.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! – 2 Corinthians 5:17



GREEN – God will grow us all.

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

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– Philippians 1:6

## **God does it all = Good News!**

We often come away with the impression of Christianity that it's all about our efforts towards living a good and godly life, but the Good News really is all about God's goodness and generosity towards us. **God is constantly generous to us every minute of every day.**

## **Another example of God's generosity**

- Auto gift from Harold / 30 minutes later... auto need for John Chough

## **Fruit of the Spirit / Behaviors – Serving, Reconciling, Generosity**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” - Galatians 5:22-23*

- **Definition:** the expression of God through a surrendered life

## **Believe and Surrender (Repent)**

*“The real secret of a unsatisfied life lies too often in an unsundered will.”*

- Hudson Taylor (went to China at age 21, China Inland Mission, died in 1905, age 73)

**The greatest joy and freedom we will ever experience in life is surrender to Christ.**

## **Heidelberg Catechism**

### **Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?**

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

### **Q. What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?**

A. First, how great my sins and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance.

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## **TRANSITION TO COMMUNION**

**Communion is the Thanksgiving meal of the Christian faith.**

- Isn't it amazing that Jesus invites us to a table?

## **Who is Communion for? What about the kids?**

*“So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of*

Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have even died.” - 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

### **LUNCH / TABLE INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Serve your plates** for lunch and head back to your tables.
2. **Prayer** - Have someone in your lunch group pray, give thanks to God for His generosity, and invite Him to join you, encourage you, and bless your time together.
3. **Conversation** - Since Communion is the Thanksgiving meal of the Christian faith, what are you thankful for as relates to your faith, Jesus, this community of faith known as Good News Church, etc.?
4. **Good News Sharing** – Do you have any highlights from this past week and/or experiences of God’s generosity / provision?
5. **Questions for Reflection**
  - How did you first encounter Jesus? Who introduced you?
  - What difference has being in relationship with Jesus made in your life?
  - What are you most grateful for?
  - What are you hopeful for?

#### **If you’re still exploring faith...**

- Why is it that you're interested in Jesus?
- What are you hoping He can provide?
- What's holding you back from giving yourself in relationship with Him?

6. **After lunch, we’ll take Communion together.**

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### **TAKING COMMUNION (Thanksgiving)**

***“The world says, ‘Have a drink and forget.’ Jesus says, ‘Drink and remember.’***  
- Steve Brown

The Apostle Paul summarizes Jesus’ institution of Communion in 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, when he writes,

**BREAD** - *“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” – 1 Corinthians 11:23-24*

**WINE / JUICE** - *In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” – 1 Corinthians 11:25-26*