



## I. INTRO

### A. KHC Update

1. Thank you staff and volunteers for an amazing Easter weekend...
2. Bulletin Insert:
  - a. Transitional Purpose Statement
  - b. Where we are focusing theologically (Gospel Centered is more Trinitarian than Christ-Centered). We will stay here until we solidify over the essentials of the faith Christian faith.
3. What will we use to define the essentials?
  - a. I want to suggest that we begin by adopting the *New City Catechism* as basis to solidify the essentials of the Christian faith AND eventually launch us into respectful dialogue regarding secondary issues.
  - b. It is a joint adult and children's catechism with 52 questions and answers that was adapted by Tim Keller from Calvin's *Geneva Catechism*, the *Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms*, and especially the *Heidelberg Catechism*. It gives good exposure to some of the riches and insights across the spectrum of the great Reformation-era catechisms.
    - c. Great for a Life Group curriculum!!**
    - d. "Superficial smatterings of truth, blurry notions about God and godliness, and thoughtlessness about the issues of living—career-wise, community-wise, family-wise, and church-wise—are all too often the marks of evangelical congregations today...<sup>1</sup>"
    - e. "Confessional Evangelicalism" = a theologically enriched form of Evangelicalism
    - f. Here is a website where you can even download an app for your smartphone: [www.newcitycatechism.com/home](http://www.newcitycatechism.com/home)
4. Two big issues in North American churches:

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<sup>1</sup> Gary Parrett and J. I. Packer. *Grounded in the Gospel: Building Believers the Old-Fashioned Way*, Baker 2010.

- a. The theological bar has been drastically lowered
- b. Christians don't do (inevitable) conflict well.
- 5. Pastor's Blog is coming soon...
- 6. I am now the official link between KHC and the Pastoral Advisory Team. Elder nominations through Wed noon. (Thank you Henry & Cindy!)
- 7. Red Ink series to begin next weekend. Why the Beatitudes?
- 8. Today's sermon is topical – Why We Do Church

## II. BODY

- A. *"And [Jesus Christ] is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."* – Colossians 1:18
- B. We want to ask what this verse is saying to us from the 30,000-foot level?
  - 1. Many commentators say that Col 1:15-23 reads like a psalm (i.e., journal)
  - 2. What does preeminent mean? *"To have first place in everything"* --Col 1:18 NASB
  - 3. What Paul is saying is that from the creation of all things to the restoration of all things, Jesus Christ is Lord of all. He is both:
    - a. **Transcendent Lord of all things** (i.e., beyond the limits of our understanding; paradox = a seeming contradiction)
    - b. **Immanent Lord of all things** (i.e., intimately close at hand)
  - 4. Jesus is the One through whom all things were created is also the One who provides peace with God through his blood on the cross. He is both the Head of creation and the Head of the church.
- C. As we focus in on *"the church"* I would like to pose the question: What do we do when we get together for a worship service?
  - 1. First, we need to identify what we are NOT doing.
    - a. A worship service is NOT built on the model of a modern entertainment event.
    - b. In a modern entertainment event we are passive spectators and the event has some warm-up acts and then the main event, and then we go home.
  - 2. So, what are we doing at each weekend worship gathering?

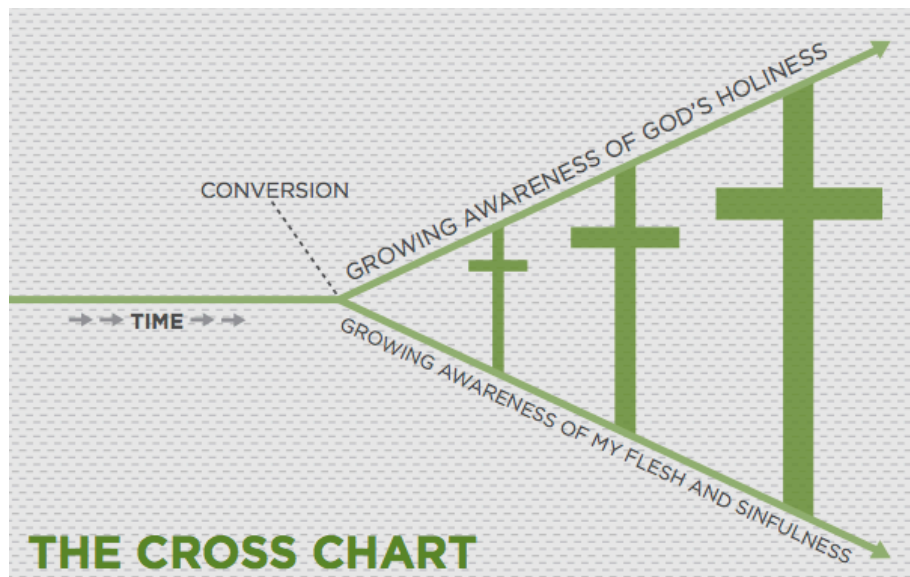
- a. Let's go back to the gospel. The best theological definition (or description) of the gospel contains four words: **God + Sin + Christ + Faith = The Gospel** (and those four words compel us to live missionally)
  - b. Do you know what's happening in a worship service? It's a recapitalization of the gospel (or, a fresh surrender to the gospel).
  - c. "An experiencing of the gospel in a profoundly participative way, every week in a way your soul needs." –Tim Keller
3. Each week we are re-living the gospel – from the beginning to the end: God / Sin / Christ / Faith. We are walking through it.
- a. If you are habitually late to worship, or if you spend the first several minutes of the service in the foyer chatting, it basically means that you think of a worship service as an entertainment event – and not, what a church service actually is.
  - b. Recognizing that we are all late sometimes – and we certainly want to extend extra grace to our families, I want to say to you that being present for the whole thing is important.
  - c. How do we participate? It means we see and we understand what's happening – and we work our way through the essentials of the gospel each and every week. We do this individually and together as a church family.
- D. Now, let's walk through these four components<sup>2</sup> of the gospel that we want to build our worship service on...
- 1. **God** is all-important and we need to, and ought to, live for Him.
    - a. We begin each week with a call, or invitation, to praise and worship God. Our goal is to always get a sense of how great and all-important God is.
    - b. In the early stages of our first set of worship music our (amazing) worship leaders will help us to focus on God – and God's majesty and beauty and sacrifice.
    - c. Furthermore, Psalm 100 gives us a very basic theology of worship: *"Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his*

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<sup>2</sup> These four components have been adapted from a sermon by Tim Keller.

*gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” –Psalm 100:3-5*

2. **Sin** is human pride and self-absorption that destroyed our relationship with God, with each other, and with the world.
  - a. There will be a time during every service where we’ll be reminded that we are NOT what we ought to be.
  - b. During the course of a worship service it is important that we consider our own pride, self-absorption, and tendency to live in rebellion to God’s call upon our lives. (This can also happen if we have time to prepare our hearts before we arrive.)
  - c. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* --Romans 3:23 [I looked up the word all...]
  - d. Here is a chart that will help us to see how an awareness of sin can actually enhance our worship...



3. In **Jesus Christ** God has come into the world to rescue us from our sin, from death, through the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - a. When we come to hear the Scripture read and taught we learn what God has done about our sin condition – in Jesus Christ.
  - b. As Paul, in Romans 7, contemplates his tendency, or, we could say, compulsion, to sin – he confesses to God and then is able to turn to God in wholehearted worship.

c. *“Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” -- Romans 7:24-25*

4. Finally, we are to **respond in faith** to what Jesus has done and with whole life commitment.

a. We respond:

1) With our hearts, our lives, with our tithes and offerings, with praise and music (at the end).

2) We respond with the Lord’s Supper and baptisms on a regular basis. We respond by going out into the world on mission.

b. *“Yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified **by faith** in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.” --Galatians 2:16*

E. And as we close each service in prayer we’ll be reminded that we’re being sent out and that we’re on a mission with God...

F. We should not be asking, “Is our church healthy – but, is our city healthy?”

### III. CONCLUSION

A. So, in conclusion: We are active participants, not spectators.

B. Once we know what’s going on we can actively and meaningfully participate. Church is a recapitulation, a re-living, of the gospel in a deeply and profoundly participative way, which your soul needs every week.

C. I’d like to close our time today with Q-48 from the New City Catechism:

D. **What is the Church?**

E. God chooses and preserves for Himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ’s kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.