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# **Gospel Overview**

# The Gospel

The Gospel is “good, mery, glad and joyful tydinge, that maketh a mannes hert glad, and maketh hym synge, daunce, and leepe for joye.”

William Tyndale, Bible translator, c. 1525

**“The Gospel is the joyous proclamation of God’s redemptive activity in Christ Jesus on behalf of humans.”**

Evangelical Dictionary of Theology

# The Gospel

“joyous proclamation” = Good news,  
not good advice.

The Gospel is good news about something  
*that has been done for us already,*  
*not something we do.*

# The Gospel

Good news about what?

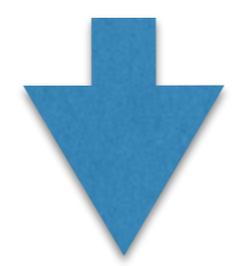
“God’s redemptive activity  
on behalf of humans”

Redeemed from what?

# Redeemed from what?

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

Genesis 3:8

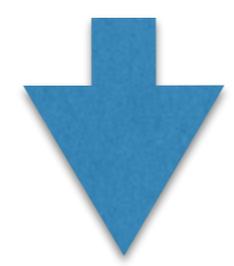


# Alienation from God

# Redeemed from what?

“But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.’”

Genesis 3:9-10

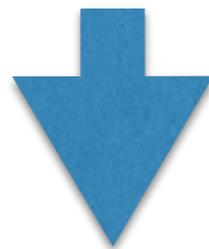


**Alienation from Self:  
Fear, Shame**

## Redeemed from what?

“He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me.’ ... To the woman [God] said... ‘Your desire shall be [to dominate] your husband, and he shall rule over you.’”

Genesis 3:11-12,16

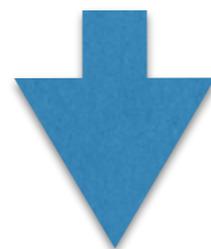


**Alienation from Others:  
Blame, Domination**

# Redeemed from what?

“To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.’ ...And to Adam he said, ‘Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground.’”

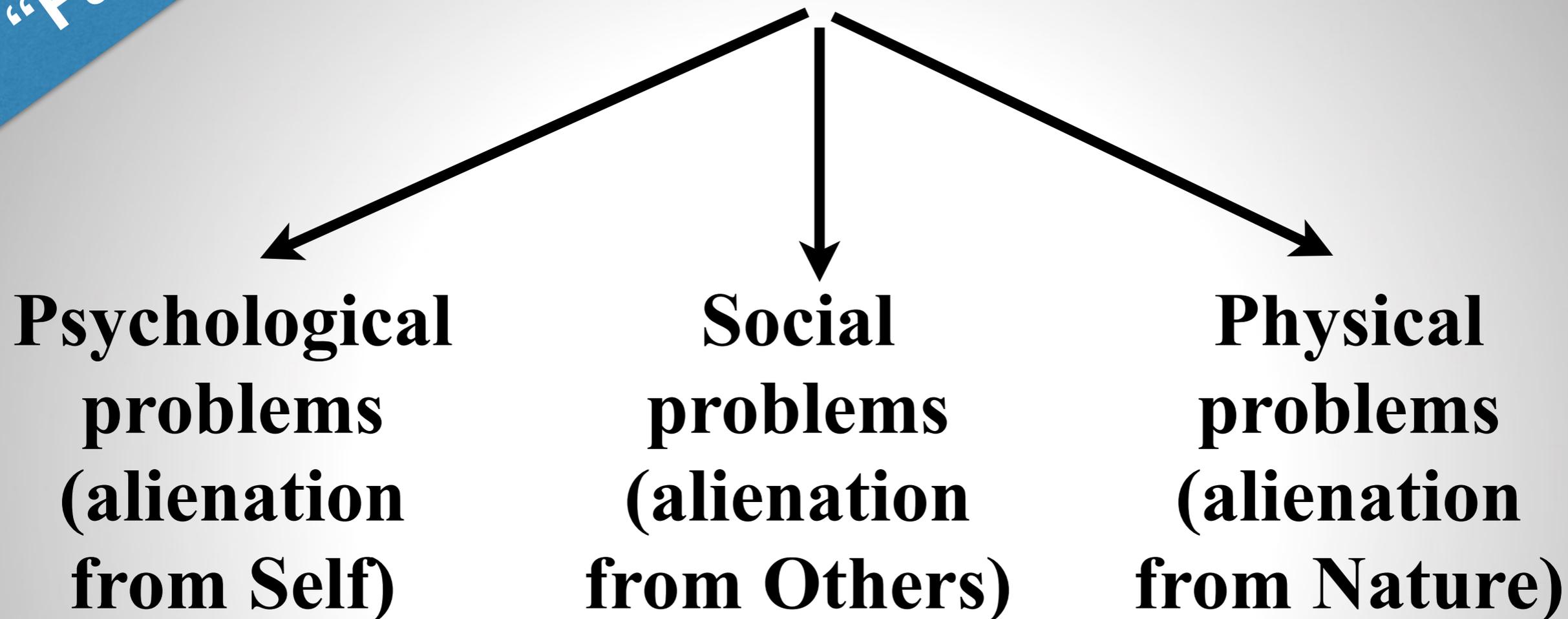
Genesis 3:16-19



**Alienation from Nature:  
Pain, Toil, Death**

**The  
“Fall”**

# **Alienation from God**



***All of our problems are rooted in  
our alienation from God.***

# **The Gospel**

**The Gospel is good news about what God has already done in Jesus Christ to make right our broken relationship with God, so that our other problems can be made right as well.**

“The Gospel does bring us solutions to [our] problems, but it does so by first solving... the deepest of all human problems, the problem of man’s relationship with his Maker; and unless we make it plain that the solution of these former problems depends on the settling of this latter one, we are misrepresenting the message and becoming false witnesses of God.”

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

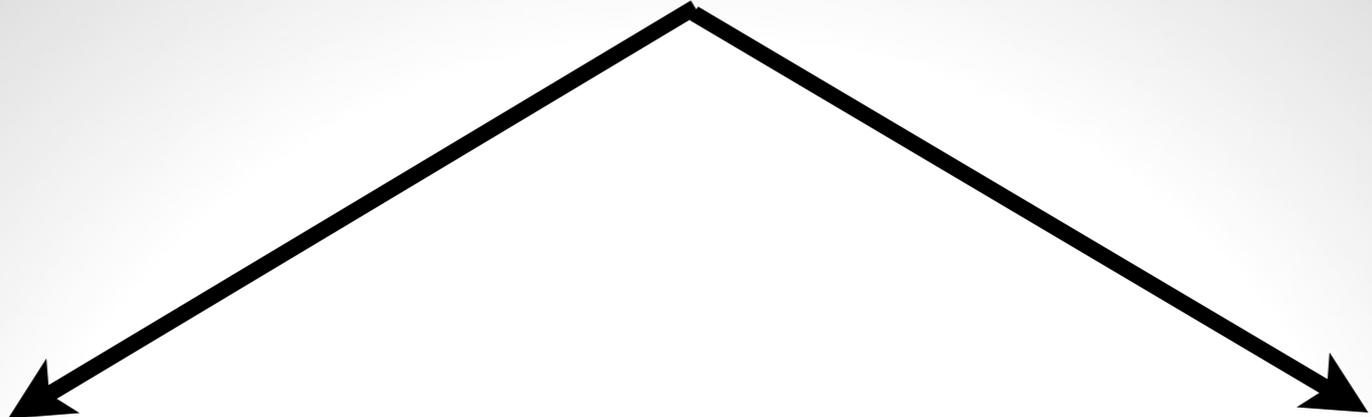
# The Gospel

So what has God done to solve this underlying problem of alienation from Him due to our sin?

“The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who *through Christ reconciled us to Himself.*” (2 Cor. 5:17–18)

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

# Two ways to explain the Gospel



**Emphasis on  
the *Individual***

**“What must I do  
to be saved?”**

**(God, sin, Christ  
and His work, faith)**

**Emphasis on  
the *World***

**“What hope is there  
for the world?”**

**(Creation, fall,  
redemption,  
restoration)**

# The Gospel story

## Gospel Questions

## Gospel Truth

**Where did we come from?**

**From God;  
the One, who is relational**

**Why did things go so wrong?**

**Because of sin:  
bondage and condemnation**

**What will put things right?**

**Jesus Christ:  
incarnation, substitution,  
restoration**

**How can I be put right?**

**Through faith:  
God's grace, trust in Christ**

Source: Timothy Keller, *Center Church*

# Enemies of the Gospel

“Just as Jesus was crucified between two thieves, so the Gospel is ever crucified between these two errors.”

Tertullian

**Moralism**  
(or  
**Religion**  
or  
**Legalism**)



**Relativism**  
(or  
**Irreligion**  
or  
**Anti-nomianism**)

# Enemies of the Gospel

**Moralism**  
(or  
**Religion**  
or  
**Legalism**)



**Relativism**  
(or  
**Irreligion**  
or  
**Anti-nomianism**)



“I can save myself by how I live, if I’m a good person.”



“It doesn’t matter how I live; God loves everyone the same.”

“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.*”

Timothy Keller, *Center Church*

# The Gospel applied

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Moralist View</b>	<b>Relativist View</b>	<b>Gospel View</b>
<b>Dejection</b>	<b>Repent and do better!</b>	<b>Feel better about yourself!</b>	<b>What's become more important than God?</b>
<b>Love</b>	<b>Earned by worthy people</b>	<b>What's in it for me?</b>	<b>Selfless, gracious, truthful</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Driven by parental expectations</b>	<b>Loyalty only if meeting needs</b>	<b>God as Father: neither hostile nor dependent</b>
<b>Self-control</b>	<b>Fear of punishment</b>	<b>Express yourself</b>	<b>New heart, new desires</b>

**etc.**

# Jesus in all the Bible

Jesus: “You search the Scriptures... and it is they that bear witness about me.” (John 5:39)

“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

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“The Christian story provides us with a set of lenses, not something for us to look *at*, but for us to look *through*.”

Lesslie Newbigin,

*The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*