

Sermon Reflections

The Facts Matter • 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Summary: You must understand the gospel, and that understanding must drive your response to the gospel.

Eight Crucial Gospel Truths

1. Preliminary Truths: The Gospel is Preached (v. 1a)

- We were reminded that, as Paul preached the gospel, all preaching must be gospel sharing, as otherwise it is just a lecture. What does gospel proclamation look like in preaching? How should gospel proclamation get incorporated into whatever text is being expounded?

2. Preliminary Truths: The Gospel is Received (vv. 1b–2)

- The gospel must be actively received by you in order for it to save you. What does actively receiving the gospel look like in your life, if it is more than merely attending or participating in church activities, Christian fellowship, etc.? How is receiving related to holding fast (v.2)?

3. Core Truths: Christ Died for Our Sins (v. 3)

- Considering the gospel's centrality to history, how does the gospel impact your Bible interpretation? How does it change how you live your life in this world surrounded by competing worldviews?

4. Core Truths: Christ was Buried (v. 4a)

- Christ's burial highlights the importance of His humanity. Why would the gospel be nullified if Christ were not truly human? Why were early church disputes related to Christ's nature important? What are some ways you can become stronger in your grasp of Christ's nature? Of church history?

5. Core Truths: Christ was Raised (v. 4b)

- How does the fact that Christ was actually raised impact your ability to overcome sin in your life? What roles do the other members of the Trinity (Father, Spirit) have in your sanctification?

6. Core Truths: Christ Appeared (vv. 5–7)

- Considering how Paul valued factual documentation for Christ's resurrection, what is the relationship between facts supporting the Bible's veracity and your faith? How can you better use facts/evidences in gospel proclamation while not making them your ultimate standard?

7. Concluding Truths: The Gospel Transforms (vv. 8–10)

- Paul used his own testimony in gospel proclamation. How have you been deficient in using your testimony in evangelism? What are right and wrong ways to use your testimony? How do you ensure you don't base your evangelism merely on your testimony (i.e., your own experience)?

8. Concluding Truths: The Gospel is Foundational (v. 11)

- The gospel is the foundation for Christian fellowship. In what ways have you been acting as a "lone ranger" Christian? If you see a time that you need to stand for truth, what safeguards do you have to make sure you don't mislead yourself and cut yourself off from accountability to other believers?