

How the Good News of Jesus Became Bad News

Christians are called live and share the Gospel in a way that is liberating, transformative, and life-giving. Yet, the good news about Jesus is increasingly perceived by the world as emotionally irrelevant, intellectually challenged, and morally questionable. In this talk, we will unpack how the good news of Jesus has become bad news to so many and what it looks like to show the power, truth, and beauty of the Gospel.

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I. Introduction

- A. “Why... do we not consider how the Christians' kindness to strangers, their concern for the burial of their dead, and the simplicity of their lifestyle have done so much to spread their message... It is shameful that among the Jews there are none there are beggars and the Christians support our poor as well as their own poor.” -Emperor Julian to Arsacius, 360 AD.
- B. “You are the light of the world. [...] So let your light shine before the people so that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:14, 16 (NIV)

II. How the Good News Became Bad News

- A. Emotionally Irrelevant
- B. Intellectually Challenged
- C. Morally Questionable

D. Not just a problem with non-Christians...

III. What Do We Need in This Moment?

A. Humility

B. Courage

IV. How Can We Show the Power, Truth, and Beauty of the Gospel?

A. The Power of the Gospel: Why Is It Emotionally Fulfilling?

B. The Truth of the Gospel: Why is the Good News Intellectually Inspiring?

C. The Beauty of the Gospel: Why is the Good News Morally Good?

V. Conclusion