



CAFÉ CHURCH DISCUSSION GROUPS A GOSPEL SHAPED CHURCH SERMON SERIES SUMMARY

In this series we have considered the truth of the Gospel, in the five *Solas* of the Reformation. Our goal was to grow in our understanding of these five fundamental truths of the Christian faith, to affirm our commitment to the Gospel, and to consider how this Good News should shape the life, worship, and mission of our Church. Below is a summary of each message in the series, with three questions for further consideration. These summaries cannot convey all that was taught in the series, so, if you missed any of the sermons, we encourage you to listen to the sermon recordings and to use the study notes which can both be found on our website:

<http://www.staidanswinnipeg.ca/a-gospel-shaped-church-fall-2018.html>

1. *Sola Scriptura* (Governed by Scripture) – October 14, 2018

Psalm 19:7-14, Isaiah 55:10-11, 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5, John 6:60-68

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul wrote that all Scripture is God breathed. This means that all Scripture is the very Word of God, and, as they wrote Scripture, the Prophets and Apostles spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). All of Scripture is completely true, reliable, and authoritative in all it teaches. The Gospel is the power of God to salvation for all who believe, and by the teaching, encouragement, and correction of Scripture, God trains us in righteousness and equips us for the good works he has prepared for us to do.

God can speak to us in many ways, but Scripture alone is our ultimate authority for what is true and right, and all other truth claims must be judged by the truth of God's Word in Scripture.

Questions to Consider:

1. Where or who does Scripture receive its ultimate authority from?
2. What happens when a Church rejects the authority of Scripture or denies its truth?
3. How does God's Word teach us, encourage us, rebuke us, and train us in righteousness?

2. *Sola Gratia* (Saved by Grace) – October 21, 2018

Nehemiah 9:9-21, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 1:1-5, 14-18

Grace is the unmerited love and favour of God. We need grace because we are dead in our sin. In sin, we have all rejected God, and, apart from God's grace, we are all under God's righteous judgment and will be separated from God for all of eternity. There is nothing we can do to fix this situation, but, because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, makes us alive in Christ, who takes our sin and in return clothes us in his perfect righteousness and obedience.

We cannot save ourselves. God's grace, his unmerited love, is our only hope for salvation.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is God's grace and why do we need it?
2. Does this understanding of grace change the way you view your relationship with God?
3. Does our need for God's grace affect the way you view mission and evangelism?

3. *Sola Fides* (United to Christ By Faith) – October 28, 2018

Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 3:19-31, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:13-21

We are saved by God's grace, which we can only receive through faith. We cannot earn God's love. All that we can do is believe in God and trust in what he has accomplished for us in our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith means that we no longer trust in ourselves, but we fix our eyes on Christ so that we may receive the righteousness God gives by faith to all who believe and trust in him.

We cannot be saved by good works or obedience to the law, but only through faith in Christ.

Questions to Consider:

1. What does it mean to have faith in God?
2. How does faith relate to God's grace and enable our union with Christ?
3. How is our faith expressed in our individual lives and in the life of our Church?

4. *Solus Christus* (Christ is the Only Mediator) – November 4, 2018

Isaiah 53:1-12, Acts 4:1-12, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:1-7

Scripture clearly teaches that salvation is found in Christ alone. The only way we can receive God's saving grace and be reconciled to God, is through faith in Jesus Christ. The modern belief that all religions lead to God is a lie. Only Jesus can atone for our sin and guilt, only Jesus can give us the righteousness God requires, and only Jesus can unite God to mankind and mankind to God. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through him.

There is one God and one mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name by which we must be saved. (1 Tim. 2:5 & Acts 4:12)

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the doctrine *Solus Christus* and how does it relate to *Sola Gratia* and *Sola Fides*?
2. How is the Gospel of Jesus Christ different from other religions and worldviews?
3. How can we effectively share the Gospel in an inclusive culture like the one we live in?

5. *Soli Deo Gloria* (Glory to God Alone) – November 18, 2018

Isaiah 42:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, 1 Peter 2:4-12, John 17:1-5, 24-26

From beginning to end, our salvation is a result of God's work in our lives and in the world. God reveals himself to us, calls out of darkness, and redeems us by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Therefore, we cannot seek any praise or credit for ourselves, instead we must give all the glory to God, by loving him and doing what he commands in a relationship of grateful and willing submission. The Church is a chosen people, a spiritual house built by God, that exists to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.

To him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine; to God alone be glory in the Church and in Jesus Christ throughout all generations, forever and ever. (Eph. 3:20-21)

Questions to Consider:

1. What is the main reason that God has created us and redeemed us in Christ?
2. Did this message challenge your understanding of the Gospel or your view of salvation?
3. Why does the Church exist? What can we do to fulfill this calling in a greater way?