

The Narcissistic Gospel

Happy fathers day, dads thanks, reminders – 4th of July, preteen camp great, students returning tonight

So far we have looked at emergent church, and word of faith

What we know about all heresy is that it sounds appealing, very little sounds appalling

All heresy seeks to deny the sovereignty of God and his word, and elevate human thoughts and actions

This morning we are going to look at a heresy that I am calling, the narcissistic gospel

By nature, we are the perfect definition of narcissism....excessive interest in and admiration of oneself

We are inclined to be narcissistic, and the reason heresy is so important to know and protect ourselves from is b/c it feeds our tendency to excessive interest in and admire ourself

Let me state from the outset, we are created in the image of God, we are the crowning achievement of creation.....only b/c we are created in the image of God

We are the only object of creation that was created in the image of God

I do not in any way want to downplay that we are God's image on full display

We do though, need to guard against the heresy of self interest, and grandiose images of our greatness, we need to guard our hearts from narcissism

The reason narc is so dangerous, is it creates a thought that I don't need God....

So what is the narcissistic gospel....lets begin with that declaration and state that the narcissistic gospel is insertion of oneself into the gospel narrative in places that are meant to show us Christ alone

What do I mean by that – the entire gospel story from genesis to rev is meant to show us two things....that mankind is in desperate need of a savior, and that Jesus was that savior

Some examples – lets read together **Hebrews 11:32-40**

We remember samson and his defeating of the philistines....great story

We remember David defeating goliath....great story

We remember Elijah raising the widow of zerephath back to life

We remember Daniel in the lions den....

All of these are great stories of great men, and the reason these historical accounts are so important is b/c they point us forward to Jesus

Each one of these people were flawed representations of a coming messiah....

Each one of these heroes – showing us the condition of mankind, and showing the gospel
So where do we get to the narcissistic gospel....

We create heresy when we flip ourselves into these stories as though we are the saviors and heroes

Video? Or....give examples – David goliath and scared Israelites, samson defeating the philistines, moses leading his people out of the desert

In each of these stories there are 3 people represented....david, goliath, Israelites....we are the Israelites....

Samson, the philistines, Israelites who needed samson....

We create a narcissistic heresy when we place ourselves in the story as the hero....

Why is this heresy? b/c it distorts the work of God and distorts who we really are

We need to always remember that it is God who defeats our enemies for us....it is God who takes down the things in our life that we don't think we can

When we begin to think that we can take down goliath....do you know what we are really saying....

And this is why its heresy.....b/c when we think we can take down goliath.....this is what we are really saying

God, I don't really need you....I got this

God, I am going to take care of this little giant here on my own.....you just step back and watch

And the problem with this....is eventually, you will run into a problem that you will not be able to fix...

The question in those moments are....what do you do now....do you know what most people do?

They turn away from God.....they say things like.....I thought once I was a believer that all I had to do was name it and claim it

I thought once I was a believer that all I had to do was have more faith, or give more money, or try harder

And you find your life wrecked, you find your family struggling, you find its all messed up.....

And now, you are mad at God....you are disappointed with him....because you were taught....its all good, your David, slay your giant.....

When in reality, what we need to be taught is....we can't fix ourselves....only God can.....we are the Israelites in desperate need of a savior to take down the giant

We were the Israelites in Egypt who were needing a savior to lead them out of slavery

Lets finish by looking at what the rest of Hebrews says here....hebrews 12:1-2

Isn't it telling that immediately after the writer talks about all of these great men and women of the bible, he then points us to who?

Christ – not even the heroes of the OT were equal to christ....can I just tell you, you are not either....and that's ok....

How do I know its ok.....look at hebrews 12:3

Application – depend on Christ alone to be your hero

Personal?