

# The Gospel Is Everywhere

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 1, 2015 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

**~John 3:16-17 (ESV)**

## 1) The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Ruins The Individual

A) The Gospel is the Good News of Salvation for all mankind:

- **God is King** (Genesis 1:1-2:25; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 4:11);
- **Mankind Is Sinful** (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 3:23, 6:23);
- **God is Provider** (Genesis 3:15; John 3:16-17; Galatians 4:4-7);
- **Jesus is the Provision** (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18);
- **We Must Respond** (Acts 2:37-41; Romans 10:8-11; Ephesians 2:8-9).

B) Our response of trust (faith) in Christ comes through hearing and responding to the Gospel, the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). When God saves someone, the “old self” is ruined (2 Corinthians 5:17), and the “new self” is born (John 3:3; Ephesians 4:22-24).

C) The Gospel progressively renews the “inner being” of a person (Ephesians 3:16, 4:23), growing a Christian more deeply in **Gospel Doctrine** (Hebrews 6:1-2), producing a fidelity in our relationship with God to His character (Philippians 2:12-13).

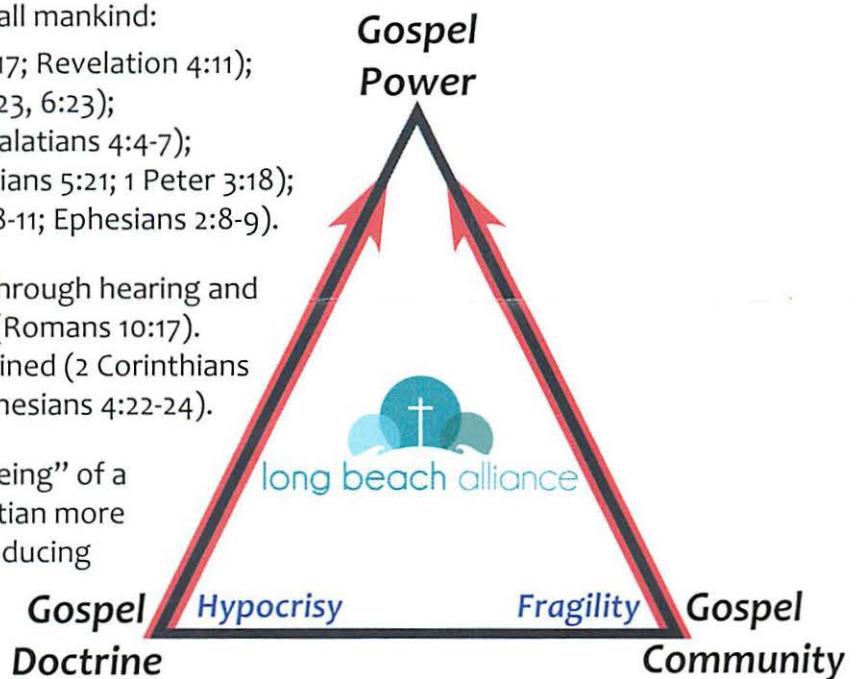
D) Simultaneously, when God saves people, He establishes a **Gospel Community** of these ‘new selves’ (Ephesians 4:11-16). This is “the church,” members of Christ and members of one another (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). The church is where God reveals His glory to the universe (Ephesians 3:6-12), where God’s people live out God’s story with God in our midst (1 Peter 2:4-10).

E) **Gospel Doctrine** and **Gospel Community** cannot live apart from one another (1 Timothy 4:6-16)! True **Gospel Community** is always rooted in authentic **Gospel Doctrine**. **Gospel Doctrine** cannot properly function outside of **Gospel Community**. Overemphasis of one or the other creates dangerous imbalances (note graphic).

F) When **Gospel Doctrine** and **Gospel Community** are out of balance, individuality and independence reign in our lives, producing ‘old self fruit’ (Galatians 5:19-21), and producing intense frustration (note Romans 7:15-24).

G) When **Gospel Doctrine** and **Gospel Community** are in balance, there is submission and dependence in our lives (Ephesians 5:21, Philippians 2:3-8). The Gospel provides everything (Romans 8:1), and costs all of us (14:5-9).

H) The church is most influential when **Gospel Doctrine** ruins individuals and creates **Gospel Community** through which **Gospel Power** flows and gives God glory in everything (Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 2:17-23; 5:25-27).





# Growth Group Guide

**“the Gospel is everywhere”**

**john 3:16-17**

**march 1-6, 2015**

## **Ice Breaker!**

Which comic book super hero or heroes do you best relate to, and why?  
(e.g. Superman, Wonder-Woman, Batman & Robin, the Fantastic Four, any of the Avengers)

## **Looking Up!**

According to Biblegateway.com (great online Bible resource), John 3:16 is the most looked up passage in the Bible. Many have read or have heard this verse, yet not all have responded. Identify the 5 key points of “Gospel Doctrine” presented by Pastor Chris implicitly (implied from text) or explicitly (clearly expressed in text) as it relates to John 3:16.

## **Leaning In!**

What is the significance of the phrases “Gospel Doctrine” and “Gospel Community?” Is one more significant than the other?

What is the impact of placing too much emphasis on “Gospel Doctrine” or too much emphasis on “Gospel Community?” For an individual? For a church?

What does the church look like when Gospel Doctrine and Gospel Community are in balance?

## **Stepping Out!**

How does the Gospel ruin an individual? What impact does this have on motivating believers to share the Gospel with those who are not-yet-followers of Christ?

## **Respond!**

Are either Gospel Doctrine or Gospel Community over-emphasized in your life? What about Long Beach Alliance? Is your Growth Group experiencing Gospel Power? Please share your opinion!



## **This Week In Action & In Prayer!**

Pray for the opportunity to express Gospel Doctrine. Pray for the opportunity to invite others into Gospel Community.

Pray for your response to Jesus’ invitation to Gospel Power in the whole of your life, your family, and your church.

