

# The Gospel Values People

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 15, 2015 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.***

***~John 1:14, 16-18 (ESV)***

## **1) The Highest Gospel Values**

- A) The Gospel is of the highest possible value because it is the power of God to save anyone who believes in Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- B) The Gospel is valuable because it is “good news,” rescuing people from the “bad news” of judgment (Romans 3:23) and separation from God (Ephesians 2:12). The sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross provides peace with God and provides unity in Christ among all those who believe (4:15-16).
- C) God’s glory (His person, magnificence, majesty, perfect characteristics) is the reason the Gospel is of such high value. When the Gospel is at work in anything or anyone, it removes obstacles to reflecting the glory of God. For mankind, God’s glory is most accurately reflected where sin has no authority, where Jesus reigns.
- D) The supreme motivation for sharing how the Gospel has changed our lives is that it allows those who do not yet know Jesus Christ to fulfill their created purpose of reflecting the glory of God. Properly reflecting God’s glory is called “worship” in the Bible. Until everyone worships God, we continue to share God’s Gospel!

## **2) God Values People. You Should, Too!**

- A) There are many other values which contribute to the spread of the Gospel, but none are as important as a genuine value for people (Ephesians 2:10). At times, passion for sharing the Gospel message is so strong, the value of how the Gospel is communicated gets obscured. In other words, people are not targets or projects, people are valuable because God has created them for relationship with Him (Psalm 100).
- B) God’s value for people is so high, He does the incredible by becoming “incarnate” (a fancy word for “becoming flesh”). An eternal, unreachable, and incomprehensible God bridges the gap between Himself and His created people through Jesus Christ, God “in the flesh” (John 1:1, 14, 18).
- C) Rather than continue to live in His rightful glory, God chose to come and reveal Himself in a manner in which mankind could truly understand Him, in the human life of Jesus Christ. God’s value for you, for me, and for all other people is so high He ‘humiliates Himself’ and ‘translates’ who He is for our benefit (Philippians 2:5-8)!
- D) Our genuine value for other people is essential for the Gospel. If people are simply targets to “win for Christ” or projects to “fix for Jesus,” the Gospel becomes useless. Like most people, we all know when someone is trying to “sell us” on something. The Gospel is not sold, it is lived through a high value of people!
- E) Jesus examples this in His relationships with His disciples, with Nicodemus at night (John 3), with the woman at Jacob’s well (John 4), with the woman caught in adultery (John 8), with blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10), with the demonically possessed, the poor, the broken, etc. Jesus values people. We should do the same!