

# Discipleship and Evangelism: Week 5

Of First Importance

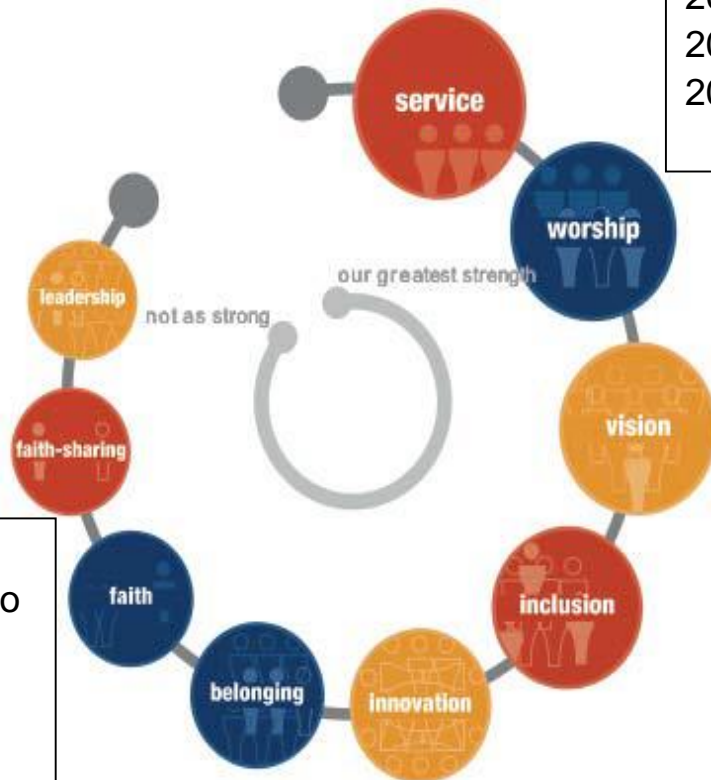
1 Corinthians 15:1-8

2 Corinthians 5:18-6:2

Sooner or later we will need to get to the centre of the good news. We will need to get to the raw reality of what happened to enable this news to be very, very good and not very, very scary.

**Intro**

# The Situation



Service  
Practical &  
diverse  
2001 55%  
2011 60 %  
2016 61%

I invited  
someone to  
church ...  
2001 43%  
2011 36 %  
2016 36 %

**15** Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

**Of First  
Importance  
1 Cor 15:1-8**

*<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born*

**Of First  
Importance**  
**1 Cor 15:1-9**

- That this is the very centre of the Gospel rests on two elements. The first is the value of Jesus, of who He is and of what He has done.
- The second element that makes the death and resurrection of Jesus central to the good news is the sinfulness and prevalence of sin.

## **Of First Importance**

- So Jesus is offered for our sin. We are ransomed like prisoners held by the opposition, we are redeemed like something held in a Pawn-shop. We were slaves to sin, now we are owned by God.
- We are forgiven because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the altar that is the cross, and the wrath of God, is extinguished, poured out on Jesus and Jesus' death takes it away. We are made clean because we have been washed in the blood of Jesus.

**Of First  
Importance**

*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

## **The Great Exchange**

**2 Cor 5:18-6:2**



*<sup>1</sup>Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For He says, “In a favourable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

## **The Great Exchange**

**2 Cor 5:18-6:2**

Notice that Paul does not say, that Jesus became like sin, or became sinful, or became an offering for sin, but rather he actually says Jesus “became sin” for us.

**What does that mean?**

## **The Great Exchange**

If I were to describe the most heart wrenching sorrow - it would not convey the sadness;

If I were to describe the most awful events in the most graphic detail, I would not even come close

If I could record the harshest scream – the terror and horror, the pain and the shame still I would not come close.

How can we grasp white being black, evil being good, Jesus becoming sin for us?

## **The Great Exchange**

*If Jesus is not sin, then we  
can **NEVER** be the  
righteousness of God.*

**The Great  
Exchange**

*We implore you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.***

***21 For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.***

**Communion**

*Behold **now** is the favourable time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.*