

“The Gospel of the World”

Whether you are aware of it or not there is a fifth gospel that exists today. In fact, it has been around for over two thousand years and amazingly enough, it is still being written today. Incredibly, it is a gospel that seems to pick up momentum and popularity over time. This seems to attract more people by the day and has an ever increasing movement. Its ability to recruit new believers is astounding. Furthermore, its believers grow stronger in their faith than in any other gospel or religious faith. The interesting part is that its doctrines and tenets are the same today as they were in its inception, yet it is ever evolving and taking on new meaning and new strategies. This is the gospel of the world. Although, there are no actual written documents of this gospel, many have read it and are experiencing it. This gospel is written on the tablets of our hearts and etched on the slates of our minds and the world continues to reinforce it and indoctrinate new believers daily. What exactly does this gospel teach? It teaches, reinforces, and expands upon everything that we know is NOT truth. It contradicts the very essence of righteous living. Its beliefs fly in the face of what is right. The sad part about it is that every day, even Christians, are getting more exposed to this gospel than they are exposed and strengthened in Biblical truths.

The gospel of the world muddies the waters of perception because it promotes its believers to view what is normal as abnormal and abnormal as normal. For example, the world says that it is normal for a person to have sexual thoughts when they look at another person but the Bible says that it is not normal. In fact, God considers that *abnormal*. (Matthew 5:28) The world says that it is normal to mislead another person under certain circumstances yet God says that is *abnormal*. The world believes that truth is irrelevant and even objective and this is normal, but God says that this behavior is *abnormal*. (Proverbs 12:22) The world says that you are abnormal if you open up, pour out your heart, and share your personal struggles with another person while God says that is perfectly normal. God says that abnormality is when you believe that you can make it on your own without Him, while the world says that you can do it on your own and in your own strength. The Bible says normal is the person who seeks after wisdom and counsel while the world believes that it is abnormal to take time to pray over major decisions. The world says that it is normal for the redefining of biblical institutions, like marriage, while the Bible says that anything other than what God calls marriage is abnormal. (Genesis 2:24) The gospel of the world preaches that it is normal to want what other's have even to the point where you make foolish decisions, unnecessary sacrifices, or even sin to get it. It is the “whatever it takes mentality”. God says this is abnormal because “what profits a man to gain the whole world but lose his soul?” (Matthew 16:26) Lastly, the gospel of the world says that it is normal to question Jesus and His sovereignty, Lordship, and the only entry point into heaven and the Father, but Jesus says that it is abnormal not to believe that “He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one comes to the Father but through Him”. (John 14:6) There are many more normal and abnormal point of views that can be cited.

The unfortunate truth about this is that many, whether they realize it or not, are buying into the “normal beliefs” of the gospel of the world and not by choice but by default. When someone spends only a couple of hours a week in a church service or reading the Bible yet is bombarded with the world's gospel for the rest of the other time, then which gospel is truly being reinforced? The gospel that is actively being pumped into our minds day and night and in every facet of our lives, of course! We must become aware that every minute of the day, there is another gospel at work vying for our attention and surrender to its doctrines. It is relentless and will never stop tugging at our hearts and minds unless we spend more time with the four, true life-giving and life-restoring Gospels so that the truth may abide in you. 1 John 2:24-25 says “See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—even eternal life”.

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