

TALKING POINTS

RESET - I AM NOT ASHAMED

LEANING IN

One of the most important "resets" we can make is in our confidence in the Gospel. All too often we are timid when it comes to standing for the Gospel - *ashamed*, even. Though it's difficult to admit we might ever find ourselves ashamed of the Gospel, in this world there are definite reasons we might shy away from taking a stand.

First, the Gospel *IS* offensive to the world - it tells us we are sinful, broken and we can't fix ourselves. It tells us there's only *ONE* way to heaven (through Jesus alone) and we're lost and can not know God if we don't acknowledge it. It tells us God *will* judge us - and find us wanting without Jesus as our advocate and redeemer.

The gospel tells us God has revealed Himself to *all* creation. His existence, His attributes and His nature are shown through the very *creation itself* - so no one has an excuse for *not* believing in Him.

Read Romans 1:16, Psalms 25:20, Romans 1:20

Have you ever had a situation where you *knew* you should have spoken up for the Gospel but you remained *silent*?

LIVING IT OUT

So, how do we live our lives without being ashamed of the Gospel? In essence, there are four reasons *not* to be ashamed of the Gospel:

The Gospel is *Literally Good News* - the Gospel tells this lost world God has made a way for us to be redeemed from our darkness and brokenness and to know HIM.

Read Luke 4:18, Acts 8:12

How would you talk to someone who has no idea (or doesn't believe) the Gospel contains *good news*?

The Gospel Has Power In It - God delights in taking the weak things of the world and using them for His glory. The power of the gospel *is* available to us - *if* we are willing to step out and trust it.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5, Hebrews 4:12

Have you ever seen God's power in someone you'd never expect simply because they trusted in the gospel?

The Gospel Is The Only Solution To Division - racism, sexism, class conflict; the answer to every division is *not* political, it's the Gospel. When we believe in the Gospel, the dividing line between us and others disappears.

Read Galatians 3:26-28

How can *you* use the gospel message to speak to the prejudices and divisions of today?

The Gospel Creates Permanent Life Change - when we truly let the Gospel into our lives, it changes us from the inside out. Our whole way of thinking changes as we begin to understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us. We're no longer the same.

Read Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17,

How can we engage the gospel to build a foundation which will last a lifetime?