

# Gospel:

Truth  
Relationships  
Beauty  
Mission



***Vision: Classic Christianity for a New Generation***

***Mission: Disciples Making Disciples in the Body of Christ***

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ... | Romans 1:1-6*

Four Core Values that fuel the Vision and Mission of St. John's Church:

**Gospeltruth:** *The Biblical message of divine grace for the undeserving.* |Ray Ortlund

Biblical, confessional, creedal, doctrinal, proclaiming, teaching, equipping, historical & revelatory.  
[NAE Statement of Faith, Historic Creeds, 39 Articles, Catechism, Confessions]

*John 14.6, 1 Corinthians 15.3-11, Romans 1.1-17, Galatians 1.3*

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5*

**Gospelrelationships:**

Care, dignity, confidentiality, friendship, forgiveness, reconciliation, accountability, compassion, hospitable vertical dimension, horizontal dimension.

*Matthew 18.18-20, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 13*

**Gospelbeauty:**

Union with Christ, Fruit of the Spirit, grace, holiness, sanctification, worship, restoration, transformation, culture of creativity and excellence

*Psalms 50.2; Psalm 90.17; Zechariah 9.17; Ecclesiastes 3.11; Isaiah 52.7; Revelation 11.15*

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**Psalm 118:22-23**

*Correct Gospel Doctrine + Human beauty living into & communicating that doctrine = stepping into the power of New Testament Christianity. | Ray Ortlund*

## Gospelmission:

Purpose, election, effectual calling, vocation, witness, ministry, service, evangelism and outreach.  
*Matthew 28.19; John 20.21; Romans 8; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10*

## summary

In valuing these four essential facets of the gospel, we prioritize the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. A gospel-formed church will necessarily find its life in the presence and priority of the Kingdom of God. Any movement away from any one of these four facets will signal a departure from the Gospel and waywardness from Christ. Each facet may be mined and plunged, examined and pondered, but never exhausted. Because God is the gospel, that is, he is good news, we never reach the bottom of the gospel-well, neither from the standpoint of our knowledge and understanding nor from our practical experience within these realities.

The gospel-formed church creates a culture in which doctrinal purity is simultaneously treasured with relational beauty (that is, the command to 'Love one another').

*The shared experience of grace for the undeserving, the corporate incarnation of the Biblical message in relationships, vibe, feel, tone, values, priorities, aroma, honesty, freedom, gentleness, humility, cheerfulness, indeed the total human reality of a church defined and sweetened by the gospel. | Ray Ortlund*

## Recommended:

Simply Christian | *NT Wright*  
Engaging God's World | *Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.*  
Creation Regained | *Albert M. Wolters*  
The Explicit Gospel | *Chandler & Wilson*  
The Bookends of the Christian Life | *Jerry Bridges*  
Gospel | *JD Greear*  
What is the Gospel | *Greg Gilbert*  
Knowing God | *J.I. Packer*  
Gospel | *Ray Ortlund*  
Grace in Practice | *Paul Zahl*  
Law & Gospel | *McDavid, Richardson & Zahl*  
Broken Down House | *Paul David Tripp*  
The Story of Everything | *Jared C. Wilson*