

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO 1 CORINTHIANS

LAST THINGS AND FIRST THINGS FIRST, Part 3:

All God's instructions are new-creation focused.

Pastor David O'Dowd

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⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. ^{ESV}

FOUNDATION: Resurrection/New-Creation is the fulfillment of God's plan: he will fill the earth with his glory.

ONE The backdrop for everything in the Bible is the non-negotiables of God's "big story," his creation/redemption plan.

A Purposeful Creation: God dwelling with men so his glory fills the earth.

B Fall into Rebellion: brokenness/alienation (w/ God, ourselves, one another and for the physical creation).

C God begins Redemption: after 1st exile (from Garden) he calls Noah, then Abraham and ultimately a nation (through Abraham, Joseph and Moses) that will be a blessing to all the nations.

D God completes Redemption: Christ the Maker and Keeper of the New Covenant is the first-born of the new creation.

Incarnation, crucifixion, atoning death, bodily resurrection and ascension, out-poured Spirit and contested reign via an

international-local fellowship in the world but not from the world who fear the 2nd death and long for transformation.

TWO **Redemption flows from the heart out:** justification with God stirs deep longings for soul, society and creation to be made right.

THREE **Strategies of engagement/disengagement:** how does the international-local body of Christ relate to the world?

ISOLATION ← → **CONFRONTATION** ← → **ENGAGEMENT** ← → **ASSIMILATION**

Stoics are **right** (conservatives) but **Epicureans** are left (liberals)?

FOUR **The Sovereignty of God and Common Grace:** God accomplishes good not only via broken-messed up Christians, but also broken-messed up pagans.

If your political actions and anger are based on first-creation utopian dreams give up now, but if you seek to be a blessing then humbly contend for the good of all and seek the welfare of your city expecting both good will and contention. *1 Corinthians 15.58*