

The Gospel

God, Man, Christ, Response*

God

God is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1) and made us in his image to know him (Gen. 1:26-28). He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship, and will punish sin (1 John 1:5, Rev. 4:11, Rom. 2:5-8).

Man

All people, though created good, have become sinful by nature (Gen. 1:26-28, Ps. 51:5, Rom. 3:23) and by choice (Rom. 2:4-6, Rev. 20:12). As a result, all people are alienated from God, hostile to God, and subject to the wrath of God (Eph. 2:1-3).

Christ

In his great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law himself and taking on himself the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in him. He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Christ's sacrifice and that God's wrath against us had been exhausted (John 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 7:26, Rom. 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:20-22).

Response

He now calls us to repent of our sins and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. If we repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Rom. 10:9-10).

* A simple and memorable summary of the gospel to help you with sharing God's good news with people. Adapted from *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* by Mark Dever.

Interview Questions

Conversation Starters with Non-Christians

1. "How would you (the non-Christian) describe your religious background and church involvement?"
2. To you, what is God like? Describe God. (If the non-Christian does not believe in God, do not ask the next two questions but instead ask, "To you, what is important in life?")
3. What do you think is important or unimportant to God?
4. What do you think it takes to get straightened out with God?
5. Describe what the term Jesus Christ means to you?
6. From your perspective, what are the major problems of churches today?

* This exercise is adapted from Will McRaney, *The Art of Personal Evangelism* (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2003), 244-245.