



THE

GOSPEL BLUEPRINT

Pastor Nate Cooper

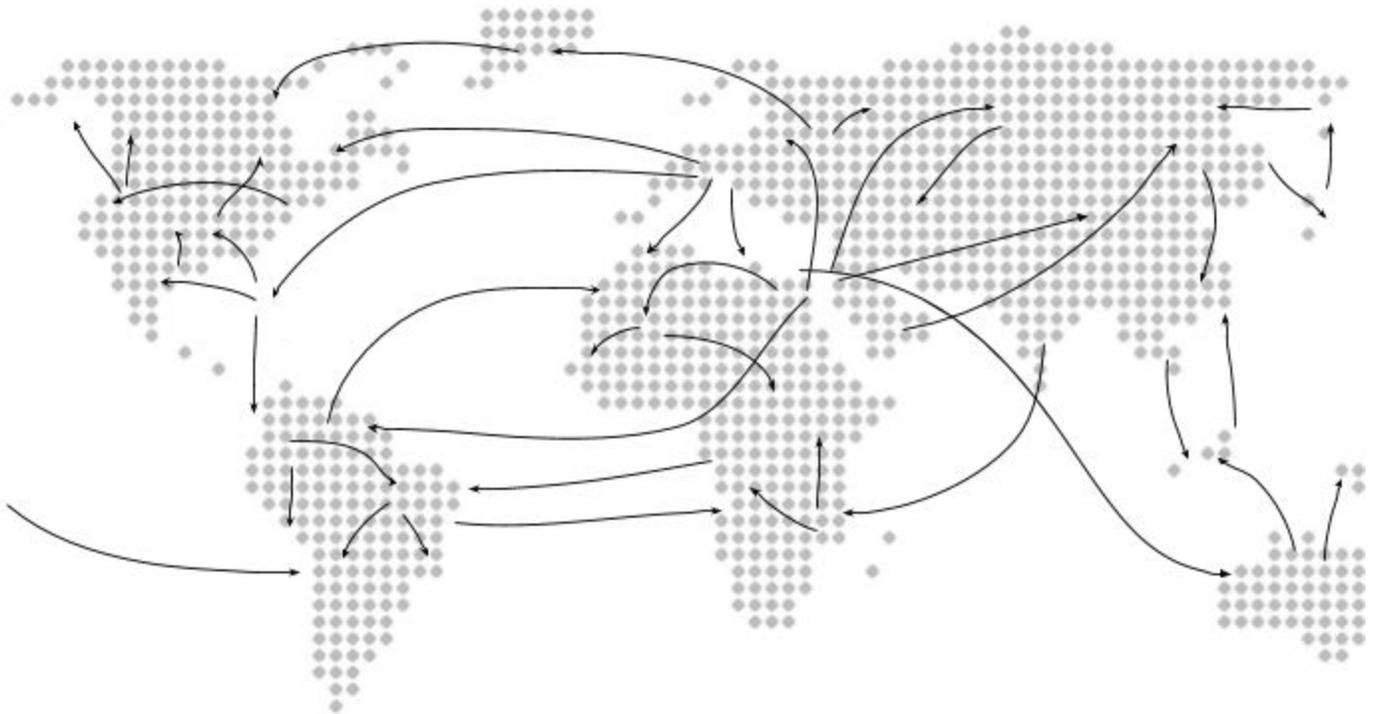


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COMMISSION

Dear Reader:

May this book be a blessing to you and others as you study this material. May it be a blessing to all those you share it with.

The emphasize behind the sequential order of the book is important as it relates to how Christians can share the Good News. The main objective is evident on Jesus alone and how a person can grasp their identity in Christ.

If a person is to truly look at their relationship with God, where does that begin? Does that relationship have an ending? Think about marriage for a moment. What is the true ideal Godly marriage? If one were to mirror the relationship Christ has with the believer, the reader should see some strong correlation between the two.

Enjoy and may this bless you abundantly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nate Cooper', with a stylized, cursive script.

- Nate Cooper, Pastor Summersville Christian Church 2017

#1 TURN FROM SIN

Marriage. Countless number of times people are faced with making the **right decisions**. What comes to mind to the person who is about to enter into a marriage relationship? The first primary decision would be to cut ties with other potential suitors. One cannot be devoted in the marriage if he or she has other romantic attachments.

In a similar fashion, God tells us that we must turn away from attachments that interfere with our relationship with Him. What God calls this is **SIN**. A person must turn from pursuing that suitor, sinful flesh, if he or she truly is devoted to following God.

REPENTANCE: a change in the way we think that leads to a change in what we do. Scriptures call this turning away from sin and turning to God.

When the Gospel is shared, it sheds light on sin; one of two things take place, a person will:

- 1) **Turn from God &** run and hide -or-
- 2) **Turn to God,** confess & repent.

Any person would be fooling themselves if they claim they have no sin.

God is **loving and holy**. To be holy means God is pure, separate without sin. Sin is therefore is not welcomed into His presence. Naturally man is estranged from God because of sin. This is a big problem.

The issue today is society labels sin as something okay. Society will paint a canvas and call what is sin, good.

THE BIBLE DEFINES SIN, NOT CULTURE.

These are some common sinful behaviors stated in the Bible.

1	Sexual Immorality any kind of sex outside of marriage. Only sex between male and female within marriage. Galatians 5:19	6	Dishonoring your father and mother Ephesians 6:2-3
2	Being resentful, bitter, and letting anger control us Galatians 5:20	7	Greed and idolatry and coveting what is not yours Colossians 3:5
3	Getting Drunk and using illicit drugs Galatians 5:20-21	8	Neglecting the poor, the orphan, and the widow Luke 3; James 1:27
4	Falsehood, lies, dishonesty, slander and gossip Ephesians 4:25;31	9	Prejudice and mistreatment of others James 2:1-9
5	Stealing and rejecting honest work Ephesians 4:28	10	Cursing, misusing God's name and bad language James 3:9-11; Ephesians 4:29

Ever since Adam and Eve rejected God, man has been running from God and His word. They didn't trust God's word. **Romans 6:23** reveals they died but not immediately. If God would had destroyed them then and there, it would have been the end of humanity. God didn't want to destroy humanity. He loved them and wanted to save them. He wanted to rescue them from the consequences of their sin.

Adam & Eve's relationship with God and each other was broken. Their shame led to them blaming each other for their sin. They were looking for someone to pay for what they had done. They looked away from the giver and sustainer of life. The result, Satan then took the authority and place in the world that was designed for them (**2 Cor 4:4; John 12:31**).

Why when we sin do we feel shame? Because we are image bearers of God. We reflect God's perfect, loving justice. We long for it to be made right. **What is the course of action one should take?** - - - - ✕ **Trust in Jesus.**

“ The beauty of repentance: we're not made sinless but we begin to sin less when we trust in His Word. ”

-Nate Cooper

#2 TRUST IN JESUS

People are created for relationships. That's why a person longs for them. The hope God had for His creation is in the hope that the person would respond to Him and find Him (**Acts 17:26-27**). The merit of this relationship is not weighed on who you are or what you have done **but of who He is.**

IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGY

TRUST

Confidence, firm believe in another, a resting of the mind on integrity

FAITH

Trusting in something a person strongly believes is true and following it

THE GOSPEL

The power of God for salvation through faith in the work of Jesus on the Cross, 'Good News.'

GRACE

The gift of Jesus. It's God's kindness, giving us salvation.

Another element in developing a relationship within marriage is **TRUST**. Without trust, a good marriage is difficult. With trust a person has confidence in how the marriage partner will treat him or her.

In a similar fashion, the Gospel is to teach us to trust Jesus. This is called **FAITH**. All people have to do is acknowledge sin which is revealed to them by **THE GOSPEL**. Once a person grasps the need to trust in Jesus, they will see faith taking root and then realize **HIS GRACE** is not earned (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) for He gave us this **FAITH** through our courage to believe in HIM.

Truth is, God's been subtly wooing mankind to Himself since creation. How is this so? God gives signs and clues, "The created world speaks of His eternal power and divine nature (**Romans 1:18-21; Acts 14:17**).

HUMANS WERE CREATED TO BELONG.

2000 years ago, **God showed the depth of His love** and held nothing back. Death is not the final state He wanted His creation to experience. So, He stepped on earth where He formed man and lived 33 years. He then entered into the depths of the grave after the cross. As He took His place 6 feet below, **his bones began to rattle his blood started flowing through his cold, corpse.**

VICTORY WAS PROCLAIMED!

This is love. God revealed this when He took on our death. Now, he is in the depths of our graves asking his creation to put their faith in him, to trust him (**Romans 3:23-26**) so they too can see the power of the Gospel raise them from their graves. Through grace he **raises believers up** to belong with Him. Therefore, we have been **created to follow** - - - - x



#3 FOLLOW JESUS

A right relationship with God begins by accepting Christ's forgiveness of sins by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). - - - - x

Marriage reflects devotion. Within marriage, two parties are represented, Man and Woman. They don't reflect each other but they are to reflect the designer of marriage. This devotion reflects selfless service to one another in **denying oneself.**

In a similar fashion, Jesus came to show the way by giving a new life to those who are devoted in trusting in Him. The result of this is to follow. **To be a disciple of Jesus,** someone who's following Him, being changed by Him &

committed to His mission
(Matthew 4:19).

“Follow Me,’ He told them, ‘and I will make you fish for people!’” NIV

This pursuit of following Jesus comes with the comfort of these promises.

- The Spirit of God (EMPOWERS YOU FROM WITHIN)
- The Word of God (GUIDES YOU)
- The People of God (ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT YOU)
- The Work of God (DEVELOPS YOU TO REACH OTHERS)

Romans 14:13 & Mark 8:34-35

“ We will follow Him when we trust Him and we trust Him more when we follow Him. ”

-Bobby Harrington, Harpeth Christian Church Franklin, TN

Confess and be baptized



Daniel Bonnell, *The Baptism of the Christ*

THIS IS THE EXPRESSION OF
FAITH TO FOLLOW JESUS

Baptism is how one officially begins to journey with Jesus. It is one of the connection points the person has with Jesus and the body. This is how others identify us as a follower, disciple, believer changed (1 Peter 3:21). Everything before is preparation.

Baptism is identifying with Jesus through the water by re-enacting the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus.

As the wedding ceremony is becoming married, so the baptism ceremony is becoming a disciple of Jesus (Colossians 1:13-14).

There is more to a marriage than the wedding ceremony. Preparation had to be made leading up to that moment and then a life of commitment to that person will follow the I do's or will's. Baptism.

“ We must become immersed in the gospel to share His story. ”

#4 THE NEXT STEP

God is intent on making everything about Jesus because it is **through him** that all things came into existence and it is in him that they are sustained (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:15-20).

SHARE THIS STORY. HIS STORY. YOUR STORY.

A MARRIAGE.

The picture God gave us of His love for His people is that of a husband pursuing His bride. God loved His bride so much that He pursued her faithfully for hundreds of years. Eventually, God took on flesh and He humbly lived as a human for thirty-three years. The writer of Hebrews says Jesus is able to sympathize with her weaknesses because He was tempted in every way as she was, yet He did not sin (Hebrews 4:15).

He fully understands her, the church, His bride, because He put Himself in her shoes. Therefore, He is able to live with His bride in an understanding way, just as Peter directs husbands to do (1 Peter 3:7). Jesus really knows His bride, so He really empathizes with her.

She was unfaithful to Him. She gave herself to others. She did not wait for Him, but grew impatient and easily gave into those not committed to a covenant relationship. And yet, He paid the bride price of His own life to purchase her out of her adulterous enslavement. His death on the cross paid the debt for her sin and cleansed her of all her impurities. With His own life, He purchased for her a perfectly pure wedding dress. In fact, the dress she gets to wear is His own righteousness, which covers the shame of her sin. He died to give her freedom, purity, and unending love.

Then He rose again and went to prepare a place for her. One day, He will come for His bride and take her home to dwell with Him forever. And though it has been more than two thousand years, He is patiently waiting for that day when His bride will be fully prepared, and He will consummate the marriage at the greatest wedding party of all eternity. He has

been waiting faithfully all this time for His bride. Talk about a faithful, loving, and patient lover who is willing to wait for the love of His life!

Jesus purchases our lives so that they would display His pure, holy, selfless, unadulterated love for us! And if we fail-when we fail-we remember God's love for us and run back to the cross in faith, trusting that Jesus died for us. We believe that His death paid for our sin and cleansed us from all unrighteousness; that we are now clothed in His righteousness; that we are changed; that we are new; and that God has declared us pure through the pure love of Jesus Christ. (John 3:29; Eph 5:22-23; Rev 19:7; Rev 21:2,9)

If the wedding analogy doesn't suit well, try the Father & son approach - - - - x

A PARENT.

The picture God gave us of His love for His people is that of a Father and Son. God chose, called and created Israel - as His son. He blessed His son to be a blessing to other nations. He were called to be a visible display of God's love. Israel, was to be God's son who displays what a father is like.

But Israel failed. God's plan however, did not. Through his offspring the world would be blessed. God would deliver another son- Jesus. God's full redemptive plan to rescue man from the slavery of sin and relinquish their proper place. This Jesus was sent to remove our guilt and cover our shame. He overcame death and has been given all authority in heaven and earth.

Jesus is the second adam. And through his body, God brought forth another woman. This is the second time a woman has been brought out of man. God brought forth the church. The church is Jesus' bride. All those who believe in Jesus' life, death and resurrection go from having Adam as their authority and life source to having Jesus the new adam. Adam sinned, and everyone born since then was born into sin as a result-except Jesus.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit thus making him sinless. When we are born again by the Spirit, we are brought under Jesus as our new Adam. So through the spirit we begin to sin less.

IT'S A STORY OF REDEMPTION.

“ This doesn't change who we are. It changes how we live. ”
-Vanderstelt, Author Gospel Fluency pg 32,33

This is our story. This is the story. We must change the world one culture at a time. So we give them a THE story. The language of that culture will soon follow.

- - - - X

REDEMPTION: the action of saving or being saved from sin, error or evil.

COMMISSION

With this transfer of power - man has been given **another command**. Keep in mind we are to still love, work and rule. **This new command** is to share this gospel. Jesus is commissioning his followers, believers to become fluent enough in your community, his word and to share it. Man is to make disciples of all nations, establish them in their new identity (**Matt 28:19-20**).

This is the true image of God. Man was to be a visible display of this love and now we have been given the opportunity to light up the world with His glory. Man can because they have a renewed and resurrected body. **Reflecting God** as redeemed, recreated and resurrected image bearers, transformed by the glory of Christ. This is all evident when a person expresses their faith through baptism.

I, _____, commit my life to trust and follow Jesus all the days of my life by identifying with Him as Lord of my life. I promise to share this story to those listed below so they to turn, trust and follow Jesus.

SIGNED _____

DATED _____

BAPTISM _____

TO WHOM WILL YOU SHARE THE STORY WITH?

