

Gospel Relating

2019-05-19 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church

Dawn Van Nevel's and Jermaine Dillon's birthdays are TODAY!!!

Mingle Questions:

1. What are a couple great summer activities in our community?
2. Would you prefer Central Gathering at 4pm or to continue at 5pm? We'll poll you more on this question later!

Throw out some quick summering ideas!

- Stay tuned for Episode 12 of The Chopping Block on Neighboring and Summering in MHK!
- A true chopping block episode of The Chopping Block.
- *Our King & Kingdom* sermon series wrapped two weeks ago.
- Mother's Day panel last week. Great work, Moms!

Honeycomb

- Enjoy some Honeycomb cereal!
- I love honey! It's fascinating to watch honeybees do their work.
- From Wikipedia
 - A **honeycomb** is a mass of hexagonal prismatic wax cells built by honey bees in their nests to contain their larvae and stores of honey and pollen.
- Why hexagons? 1) Very strong 2) Bees work together as a team 3) No gaps in the relating
- Real honey will take the shape of a honeycomb in a bowl with water. Did you know that? I just learned that.
- *Relating* sermon series starts NOW!!!

Relating

Relating to... Wordcloud List:

Soul, God, Scripture, Disciples, Friends, Technology, Past, Culture, Sexuality, Enemy, Money, Neighbors, Church, Earth, Body, Politics, Family

Gospel Relating

Scripture Memory Cards—Colossians

- Church planted Epaphras after he heard the Gospel, probably in the Hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus.
- Paul addressing either 1) New heresy (think Gnosticism) 2) Old religion (think Judaizers) or 3) Spirit of the Age (think syncretism)

Please turn to page 572 in your ESV giveaway Bible!

_____ reads Colossians 1:15-20

PRAY!!!

Gospel Hexagons (slightly updated version of the Gospel Circles)

Gospel

“...by the blood of the cross.”

Colossians 1:5b-7a ^{5b}Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ^{7a}just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant.

Gospel Truths

What Gospel Truths do you see in this passage?

“...in him all things hold together.” (v. 17)

“...he is the head of the body, the church.” (v. 18)

“He is...the firstborn from the dead...” (v. 18)

“...in everything he might be preeminent.” (v. 18)

- The Deity of Christ is constantly under attack! You can tell that this is a specific tactic of the Enemy throughout church history.

“...through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven...” (v. 20)

- Let’s define “all things”. It means all things. To be more specific, all things on earth and in heaven. That’s all things!
- All things will be reconciled to God the Father through Jesus! The abundant life we seek to live here and now and that we call others to live here and now is a taste of that ultimate perfect reconciliation in eternity after the return of Jesus.
- **Colossians 1:13-14** ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- **Colossians 1:21-22a** ²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death...
 - Have you been reconciled to God? Would you like to publicly share your faith? Consider being baptized. We’d love to schedule a Baptism Celebration!

“...making peace...” (v. 20)

- The Gospel and these Gospel Truths shape all of our relating *here* and *now*, with an eye to perfect relating *then* and *there*.
- In the past we’ve talked about Gospel Conduct or Gospel Behavior that flows from the Gospel and the Gospel Truths. I’d like us to talk in terms of Gospel Relating through this sermon series. It’s the same thing as Gospel Conduct or Gospel Behavior but a little more specific in that it highlights that all conduct and behavior is in relationship to something or someone else.

Gospel Relating

Soul, God, Scripture, Disciples, Friends, Technology, Past, Culture, Sexuality, Enemy, Money, Neighbors, Church, Earth, Body, Politics, Family

My Story—You'll have time to share from your story later!

EDGE Team—"Slow down, Ben. You're on a team!"

Music Theory 2—I remember sitting in Music Theory 2 down in the basement of McCain Hall when it just dawned on me that all of life is about relationships. All the tasks that I was trying to complete in my life had to serve relationships otherwise they were meaningless. I was definitely a tasks over people oriented person. But that moment and other moments before and after then, have been instrumental in building my conviction that life is about relationships. I should have been learning about 2nd and 3rd inversions but found myself journaling about the importance of relationships. Don't worry, I also learned 2nd and 3rd inversions.

Friend's Prayers—"I've been praying for you...that you would love people!"

James 1:22 over Christmas break my junior year at K-State.

Everything we do should be to enrich relationships in some way, both personally and as a church.

- Soc Med / Technology
- Food
- Job
- Vacation / Fun / Hobbies

Strategic Priorities 2019—Wordcloud List:

- 1) Discipleship
- 2) Family
- 3) Neighboring

Tallgrass' Mission Statement

God's Relating—Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

Experiencing the Trinity by Darrell W. Johnson—"At the center of the universe is a relationship.' That is the most fundamental truth I know. At the center of the universe is a community. It is out of that relationships that you and I were created and redeemed. And it for that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed! And it turns out that the community is a Trinity. The center of reality is Father, Son and Holy Spirit." –p. 37

Close your eyes and imagine the time before time... Which is impossible to really conceive of.

- Do you see it? Do you see the LIFE Group?
- Before Creation, God was...but God was not alone. God existed in perfect relationship. He had His own LIFE Group!
- Trinitarian love
- It's out of the beautifully perfect relating of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit that Creation occurred.
- God wanted to relate to us in the context of love and not coercion, so He gave us free choice.
- We messed that up.
- The Fall—Since that initial break in relationship with God, all relating on earth and in heaven has been fractured.

Divine Invitation—We'll sing about this later!

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." —Saint Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*

- Saint Augustine of Hippo was a Roman African from Numidia (present day Algeria) who lived from 354-430 AD.

Action Steps:

1) Consider and Choose

- Consider which of your relationships need to be strengthened this summer and then choose one or two to focus on.
- You may want to talk to God about this.
- Start pulling together resources...and send them our way!
- Pick S.M.A.R.T. goals related to this relationship.
 - Specific, Measurable, Attainable/Achievable, Relevant/Realistic, Time-bound/Timely
- Or say it with a Boston accent and set S.M.A.T. goals. Just take out Relevant/Realistic. It's redundantly saying the same thing more than one time.

2) Hexagonal Prayer Challenge

- I want you to think about and pray for your relationships every time you see hexagons!
- Anyone know where there were taken?
- Take some photos of hexagons and send them my way!

Q&R&Testimonies

Pray the boldest prayer imaginable—Ephesians 3:14-21!

The Chopping Block:

Experiencing the Trinity by Darrell W. Johnson

- “‘At the center of the universe is a relationship.’ That is the most fundamental truth I know. At the center of the universe is a community. It is out of that relationships that you and I were created and redeemed. And it for that relationship that you and I were created and redeemed! And it turns out that the community is a Trinity. The center of reality is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” –p. 37
- “Again, C.S. Lewis helps us from another of his radio talks on the Trinity. ‘The union between the Father and Son is such a live concrete thing that this union itself is also a Person. I know this is almost inconceivable, but look at it thus. You know that among human beings, when they get together in a family, or a club, or a trade union, people talk about the “Spirit” of that family, or club, or trade union. They talk about its “Spirit” because the individual members, when they are together, do really develop particular ways of talking and behaving which they would not have if they were apart. It is as if a sort of communal personality comes into existence. Of course, it is not a real person; it is only rather like a person. But that is just one of the differences between God and us. What grows out of the joint life of the Father and Son is a real Person, is in fact the Third of the three Persons who are God.’” –pp. 51-52
- “What does it all mean? It means that in the deepest mystery of his being God is an intimate relationship, a fellowship, a community of love.” –p. 51
- “‘To be is to be related.’ Because it is true of God; it has to be true of us. We need to be in relationship in order to be fully human. In the famous words of the poet John Donne: ‘No man is an island.’ It is because we are created in the image of the Trinity that loneliness is so crushing, that broken relationships are so debilitating, that death is so painful. Lack or loss of relationship violates our essential nature, created to reflect the relational essence of God. That is why Jesus emphasize ‘righteousness’ so much. Righteousness simply means ‘right relationship.’” –pp. 52-53
- On labels—“Christo-centric Trinitarian” –p. 54
- “As I have been reflecting on this, I have come to see that we are co-lovers in three ways. We are co-lovers with God *of God* (worship); we are co-lovers with God *of one another* (community); we are co-lovers with God *of the world* (mission).” –p. 64

Set List:

All Creatures of Our God and King

Holy, Holy, Holy

Divine Invitation

The Benediction

- From Wikipedia
 - A **honeycomb** is a mass of hexagonal prismatic wax cells built by honey bees in their nests to contain their larvae and stores of honey and pollen.
 - The axes of honeycomb cells are always quasihorizontal, and the nonangled rows of honeycomb cells are always horizontally (not vertically) aligned. Thus, each cell has two vertically oriented walls, with the upper and lower parts of the cells composed of two angled walls. The open end of a cell is typically referred to as the top of the cell, while the opposite end is called the bottom. The cells slope slightly upwards, between 9 and 14°, towards the open ends.^[*citation needed*]
 - Two possible explanations exist as to why honeycomb is composed of hexagons, rather than any other shape. First, the hexagonal tiling creates a partition with equal-sized cells, while minimizing the total perimeter of the cells. Known in geometry as the honeycomb conjecture, this was given by Jan Brożek and proved much later by Thomas Hales. Thus, a hexagonal structure uses the least material to create a lattice of cells within a given volume. A second reason, given by D'Arcy Wentworth

Thompson, is that the shape simply results from the process of individual bees putting cells together: somewhat analogous to the boundary shapes created in a field of soap bubbles. In support of this, he notes that queen cells, which are constructed singly, are irregular and lumpy with no apparent attempt at efficiency.^[3]

- <https://askdruniverse.wsu.edu/2015/11/02/why-do-bees-make-hexagons/>

Shield of the Trinity

The **Shield of the Trinity** or *Scutum Fidei* ([Latin](#) for "shield of faith") is a traditional [Christian](#) visual [symbol](#) which expresses many aspects of the doctrine of the [Trinity](#), summarizing the first part of the [Athanasian Creed](#) in a compact diagram. In late medieval [Europe](#), this emblem was considered to be the [heraldic arms](#) of God (and of the Trinity).

Summer & Neighboring in MHK

- The Nothing Festival
- Third Thursdays
- Arts in the Park
- Twilight Swim
- Tallgrass LIFE Groups
- MomLIFE play dates

Gospel Relating

- My Soul
- God/The Bible
- Discipleship
- Friendship
- Soul Care
- Technology/Social Media
- My Past
- Culture/Cosmos
- Sexuality
- Neighbors w/ Different Worldviews
- Opposite Sex
- The Enemy
- One Another/The Church
- Money?
- Neighbor
- The Bible
- The Church
- Physical Earth
- Physical Body
- Politics
- Temperaments/Personalities
- The Catholic Church (Universal Body of Christ)
- World Religions (Jews, Muslims, Bahai, etc.)
- The Lost

Ideas:

- Friendship
 - *Reclaiming Friendship: Relating to Each Other in a Frenzied World* by Ajith Fernando
 - <https://www.xenos.org/counseling/friendships>
 - *Fighting for Friendship - Practical Wisdom for Building and Maintaining Friendships* by Conrad Hilario (at XSI 2016—*Love: The Mark of a Christian*)—<https://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=3503>
 - *Spiritual Friendship from 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13* by Scott Risley—<https://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=3957>
 - *Wisdom and Friendship from Proverbs* by Scott Risley—<https://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=3273>
 - *Counselors Offer Advice on Building Friendships*—<https://www.xenos.org/news/counseling/counselors-offer-advice-building-friendships>
 - *Advice on Building Friendships Part 2*—<https://www.xenos.org/news/counseling/advice-building-friendships-part-2>
 - https://smile.amazon.com/Friend-ish-Reclaiming-Friendship-Culture-Confusion/dp/1400213517/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?keywords=reclaiming+friendship&qid=1557945765&s=gateway&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1
- Cosmos/Culture/World—In the world but not of the world!
 - Hexagon Venn Diagram for Hedonism vs. Ascetism Tension
 - Colossians 2:16-23
- Technology / Social Media / Marketing / Etc.
 - June 5 Brown Bag Lunch
 - <https://iterativemarketing.net/peso-model-marketing/>
 - <https://www.prsa.org/>
- Soul Care
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/17/entertainment/game-of-thrones-counseling-trnd/index.html>

Colossians^{ESV}

Chapter 1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the

head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Chapter 2

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²²(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Chapter 3

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Chapter 4

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—
⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶ And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord."

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.