

40 Days of Grace, week 1: Why Christians hate evangelism

If we're going to enjoy telling people about God, we need to love him ourselves.

Three steps in the prayer of Richard of Chichester:

- See you more clearly
- Love you more dearly
- Follow you more nearly

The gospel is like quantum physics ...

Anyone who is not shocked by the gospel has not understood it.

Four reasons the gospel is good news

1. You were dead; now you are alive

“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.”

— Colossians 2:13.

2. God loves *us*, not just “people”

When the universe went wrong, he didn't just start again.

3. Christianity is not a transaction

The term “transaction” implies:

- Something done once, then can be forgotten
- Something agreed between negotiating equals
- Something where we give up one thing to get another

But we are coming home to a Father who loves us.

4. Everything we love is an echo of God's goodness

“There have been times when I think that we do not desire heaven; but more often I have found myself wondering whether, in our heart of hearts, we have ever desired anything else. All the things that have ever deeply possessed your soul have been but hints of it — tantalising glimpses, promises never quite fulfilled, echoes that died away just as they caught your ear.”

— C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*.

Who does God extend his grace to?

- The woman caught in adultery (John 8:3-11).
- Paul, the persecutor of Christians (Acts 8:1, Acts 8:3, Acts 9:1, 1 Timothy 1:12-15)
- John Newton, the slave trader
- Us
- Everyone

What actually is a Christian?

Definition: someone living in God's forgiveness.