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**Session 1**

*Placing Personal Change  
Within  
A Bigger Context*

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Why does the Church need to think about personal and inter-personal problems?

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### Six Unavoidable Facts

1. Someone had a problem in your church this week.
2. We have everything we need in the Gospel to help that person (2 Peter 1:3).
3. That person will seek help first from friends, family members, or pastors before seeking professionals.

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4. That person either got no help, bad help, or biblical, gospel-centered help.
5. If they don't get meaningful help, they will go elsewhere.
6. Whatever help they received, they will use to help others!

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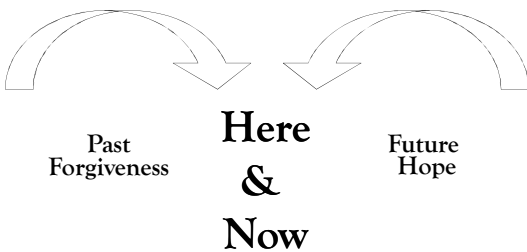
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### Gospel Gap



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### Common Gospel Replacements

- 1. Formalism
- 2. Legalism
- 3. Mysticism
- 4. Activism
- 5. Biblicism
- 6. Psychologism
- 7. Socialism

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### What Tends to Be Missing?

- 1. The reality of remaining sin
- 2. The centrality of the heart
- 3. The present benefits of the work of Christ
- 4. The need and presence of the Holy Spirit
- 5. A lifestyle of ongoing repentance and faith
- 6. A call to growth
- 7. A call to community

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### Ministry Gap



Casual Relationship      Everyday Life      Formal Ministry

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**A Ministering Community**

Colossians 3:12-17

Take note of verse 16...

Addressing the Gospel Gap: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...*

Addressing the Ministry Gap: *...as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.*

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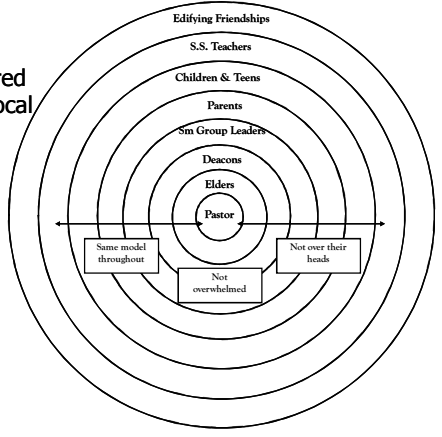
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**Creating a Culture of Christ-centered Change in Local Church**



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**Do Not Be Abducted  
By False "Gospels"  
Colossians 2:1-10**

Claim #1 — vv. 1-5

Claim #2 — vv. 9-10

Warning — vv. 6-8

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## Session 2

*The Big Picture*  
Jeremiah 17:5-10

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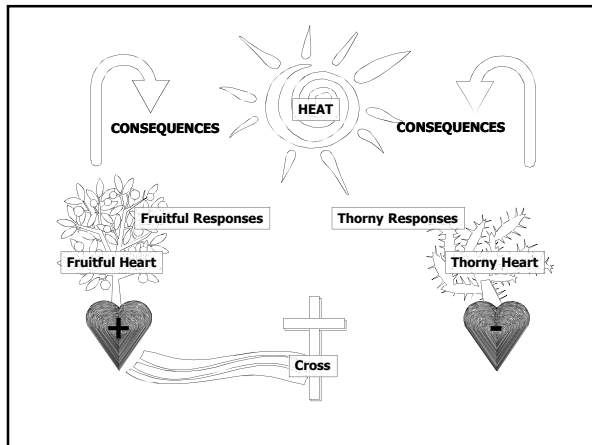
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### **Heat**

*Your Situation:*  
*What is going on?*

### **Thorns**

*Your Response:*  
*What did you do and why?*

### **Cross**

*The Gospel:*  
*Specific Repentance and Faith*

### **Fruit**

*Your New Response:*  
*What did you do and why?*

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James 4:1-12

A Case Study...

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**HEAT & THORNS**

*Normal daily life is where the  
battle is won or lost.*

(James 4:1-3)

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“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but you don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

(James 4:1-3)

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**CROSS**

*God's grace rescues us from ourselves.*

(James 4:4-10)

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"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think that Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us tends toward envy, but he gives us more Grace? That is why Scripture says, 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

(James 4:4-19)

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**FRUIT**

*God's grace rescues others from us.*

(James 4:11-12)

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“Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor?  
 (James 4:11-12)

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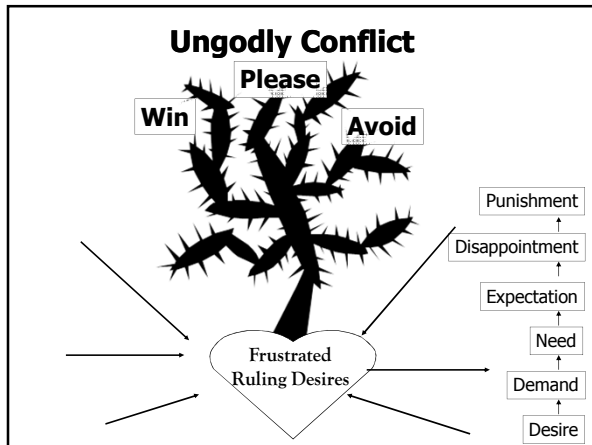
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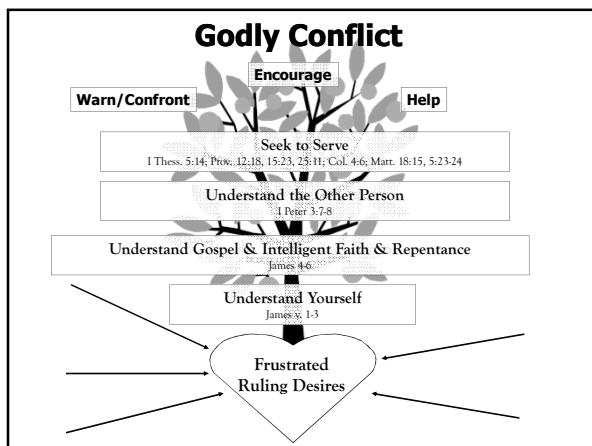
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## Session 3

### *Getting Into the Details: Worship Disorders and the Gospel*

The next five slides are an adaptation of material borrowed from Tim Keller, Senior Minister, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City.

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#### 1. Sin is a worship disorder:

a. What is a worship disorder? Rom 1:25— “good things morphing into God”

b. Why we do this? Rom 1:21— “to stay in control of our own lives”

c. How does a worship disorder affect us?

1. Distorted thinking—Rom 1:21
2. Enslavement—Rom 1:25 (served)
3. The sin underneath the sins

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#### 2. Identifying worship disorders:

a. Using problem emotions; anger, fear, worry, despair, euphoria, calm/comfort, etc.

b. Motivational Drives: approval, comfort, image, control, helping, dependence, independence, work, achievement, materialism, religion, individual person, irreligion, racial/cultural, inner-ring, family, relationship, suffering, ideology...

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c. Diagnostic questions:

1. What is my greatest nightmare? What do I worry about most?
2. What, if I failed or lost it, would cause me to feel that I did not even want to live? What keeps me going?
3. What do I rely on or comfort myself with when things go bad or get difficult?
4. What do I think most easily about? What does my mind wander to when I am free? What pre-occupies me?
5. What prayer, unanswered, would make me seriously think about turning away from God?
6. What makes me feel the most self-worth? What am I proudest of?

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3. Change and the Gospel

A. First Step—Repent

a. Name the object of worship—be specific

b. Unmask the object of worship—destroy its attraction

i. See how weak and poor it is in itself

ii. See how dangerous it is

iii. See how grievous it is to Christ

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B. Second Step—Rejoice

a. Rejoice in general

b. Rejoice in particular—bring specific passages together with prayer (meditation)

c. Rejoice in process—growth in grace is gradual over time

d. Repent and Rejoice in community

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## Session 4

### Personal Application

*How You Can Change...*

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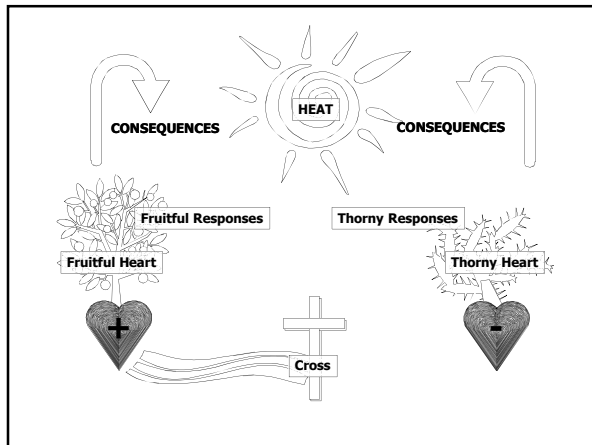
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### **Heat**

*Your Situation:  
What is going on?*

### **Thorns**

*Your Response:  
What did you do and why?*

### **Cross**

*The Gospel:  
Specific Repentance and Faith*

### **Fruit**

*Your New Response:  
What did you do and why?*

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Tongue Awareness Project  
*Your speech reveals your heart and  
helps you detect what needs to  
change.*

**HEAT**

1. What was the situation?

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**THORNS**

2. How did you speak/think/act in ungodly ways?

3. What were the consequences?

4. What motives/cravings/fears filled the heart?

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**CROSS**

5. Who is the Lord and what does he do and say in your behalf?

A. Detect the idol

B. Name the idol

C. Unmask the idol

D. Compare and contrast the idol to the grace of Christ

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**FRUIT**

6. What good (new motive) fills the heart?

7. How can you speak/think/act good (Behavior)?

8. What were the consequences?

9. What is your new situation (Heat)?

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**Gospel Change Is As Specific and Concrete as Sin**

*How God changes this teacher...*

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**“Walking Up the Stairs and Knocking on the Door”**

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