







NARRATIVE

1. Story shapes the way we view God, ourselves and the world we live in.
2. Context is everything.
 - "Paint the corner" means one thing in art class and something entirely different on the baseball field.
 - "I'm saved" means one thing in a story about going to heaven when you die and something entirely different in the biblical narrative.

FORGIVENESS ONLY NARRATIVE

1. The end is heaven (or avoiding hell).
2. The means is forgiveness.
3. Distinction is made between a Christian and a disciple.
4. Discipleship is about trying hard to change behavior.
5. God is often viewed as distant and transactional.
6. Evangelism becomes transactional.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- 1517- c 1750 Protestant Reformations
- c 1730-1755 First Great Awakening. Emphasis on sanctification at the expense of certainty of conversion.
- c 1790-1840 Second Great Awakening. Emphasis on instantaneous conversion at the expense of sanctification.
- c 1900-1910 Rise of Pentecostalism, Fundamentalism and the Social Gospel.
- c 1920-1930 Liberalism/ Fundamentalism Divide.
- c 1950-1990 Theological entrenchment; rise of *evangelical gnosticism*.

BIBLICAL NARRATIVE

1. God created something good (Gen 1:31).
2. God created us in his image specifically to participate with him in his creation (Gen 1:26-28).
3. We rejected this story and attempted to write our own, so naturally things went horribly wrong (Gen 3:4-6).
4. Jesus came to reverse our false narrative and reinsert us back into the original story (Matt 28:18-20).
5. The story is ongoing, as Jesus is still taking on disciples through the Spirit to heal us and restore our original purpose (2 Cor 3:7-18).

GOSPEL NARRATIVE

1. The end is God himself and as a result, other people. Heaven is consequential.
2. The means is forgiveness that causes reorientation into the new narrative.
3. No distinction between Christian and disciple, Jesus saves to empower participation with him.
4. Discipleship is about cultivating intimacy with Jesus through the Spirit.
5. God is intimate, personal and inviting.
6. Evangelism becomes a personal invitation to switch narratives and become who we were created to be.

GOSPEL NARRATIVE

"Repentance, properly understood, should become like gravity, pulling every area of our present and future life into the story of God. It is not just a reconsideration of our sinful past. Repentance includes all the activities and attitudes necessary to spiritual transformation into Christlikeness. It is the implementation process of switching stories."

Todd Hunter, *Christianity Beyond Belief*

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1-10, how certain are you that if you died right now you would go to heaven?
2. If you were to die right now and God asked you why he should let you in to heaven, what would you say?

Good at diagnosing basic belief, bad at reorienting narrative.

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS

1. If you knew you were going to live tomorrow, the next day and for a long, long time, who would you follow?
2. Around what story would you organize the various parts of your life?
3. What kind of person would you be?
4. How would you determine the answer?

*DEFINITION**

A Christian is a:

1. Cooptive friend of Jesus . . .
2. Living in creative goodness . . .
3. For the sake of others . . .
4. Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism is simply inviting others into this life in the Spirit.

*From Todd Hunter's book 'Christianity Beyond Belief'
