



Shaped by the Gospel: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City (Center Church)

Timothy J. Keller, Michael S. Horton (Contributor), Dane Calvin Ortlund (Contributor)

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It is easy to assume that if we understand the gospel and preach it faithfully, our ministry will necessarily be shaped by it—but this is not true. Many churches claim to be gospel-centered but do not have a ministry that is shaped by, centered on, and empowered through the gospel. The implications of the gospel have not yet worked their way into the fabric of how that church does ministry.

Gospel-centered ministry is more theologically driven than program driven. To pursue it, we must spend time reflecting on the essence, the truths, and the very patterns of the gospel itself. The gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, but something else entirely—a third way of relating to God through grace. In *Shaped by the Gospel*, bestselling author and pastor Timothy Keller addresses several current discussion and conflicts about the nature of the gospel and shows how faithful preaching of the gospel leads to individual and corporate renewal.

This new edition contains the first section of *Center Church* in an easy-to-read format with new reflections and additional essays from Timothy Keller and several other contributors.

Shaped by the Gospel: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City (Center Church) Details

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From Reader Review Shaped by the Gospel: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City (Center Church) for online ebook

Drew Bennett says

Keller's articulation of the gospel in a condensed format. I especially enjoyed the connection between what he calls "gospel renewal" and revival. Very helpful discussion of Richard Lovelace and Martyn Lloyd-Jones and their thoughts on revival as well.

Brandon Wilkins says

This is an excellent book on how the church's worship and life should be shaped by the message of the Gospel. "Shaped by the Gospel" is a smaller section from Keller's book Center Church, now turned into a book of its own. What's interesting about this small-section-turned-into-a-book is that it includes critical interaction from other Reformed theologians, specifically Michael Horton and Dane Ortlund.

Part 1 of the book describes what the Gospel is (this is the section that Horton responds to). Part 2 is about how the Gospel should be applied to church life (this is the section that Ortlund responds to).

The book is very good, I honestly cannot think of any substantial criticisms--in fact neither could Keller's respondents. Both Horton and Ortlund gave very commendatory reviews of Keller's work, and they offered what by their own admission were more superficial criticisms (yet not niggling criticisms, they did raise helpful and good points).

I could easily see this book becoming something I come back to regularly, as it makes such a clear and compelling case for Christ-centered ministry and the difference that it makes.

Recommended to church leaders but, really, recommended also to anyone that wants to know how the Gospel should make a difference for what a church does.

Cathy says

A very clear-cut explanation of what the gospel is, how the themes in the Bible reflect the gospel, and how a true understanding of the gospel is the only viable way to the revival of the church. My favorite part of the book is a chart in which the author compares Christians who subscribe to "religion" with Christians who subscribe to the "gospel." (A version of the chart can be found online here:

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/th...>) The author believes (and I agree) that when Christians turn away from "religion" and uplift the "gospel," church will experience revival through both the believers' spiritual renewal and their powerful testimony to nonbelievers. He also believes it is easy for Christians who already believe the gospel in principle to veer towards "religion," because it is in human's fallen nature to put our faith in what we do rather than in the grace of God. Thus he thinks Christians need to be constantly reminded of the message of the gospel, so that they can understand and experience Jesus's saving grace in a profound

way. I've read many of Keller's books, and you can see this focus on the gospel in his approach toward every issue he wrote about. But I think this book is the one in which he really spells out what he is doing and why.

Daniel Markin says

Most of Tim Keller's thought is in this book. Read to see what he is all about.

Danny Fröse says

A great book for every pastor. I profited in many ways from the thoughts of Keller.

Rob says

Truly appreciated Keller's discussion of Gospel-centered ministry. I also liked the back-and-forth style of having him write a section, having another author critique that section, and then Keller respond to the critique. This interplay deepened the conversation in a way I didn't expect.

Lisa Shuh says

Irreligion, religion and the gospel. A helpful and thoughtful processing of what the gospel is and how it does change your life.
