

**God-centered/Me-centered Chart** (Metzger, Tell the Truth, 36-37)

- Methodology flows from Theology
- Message should be consistent with biblical theology
- No part of theology remains untouched with our presentation of the Gospel

**Tell the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth so enable you God**

- Half-truths can be dangerous when presented as the whole, entire truth.
  - God is love! (Glorious truth, but not the entirety of the Gospel)
    - What do we mean by the term?
    - The inverted order of our culture: “Love is God.”
  - To become a Christian is to become happy and fulfilled.
    - What about suffering?
    - What about the cost of discipleship?
- Method-centered witness or Message (Living Word)-centered witness?
  - Truth over experience
  - Not relying on persuasive techniques or psychological tricks or self-help
- Three helpful questions to keep your approach in check
  - Were the central truths of the gospel elaborated on clearly so that a meaningful response was possible?
  - Did appropriate Scripture probe the conscience, or only reinforce their sinful desires?
  - Was the impression given that they can decide for Christ by their own abilities whenever convenient?
- Me-centered witness or God-centered witness? (some truth given out of context)
  - If we only center on the person, we usually promote a threefold effect: (Harris)
    - Deceiving non-Christians-unbelievers trust in their response for assurance
    - Distorting Christians-believers look for another stage in their Christian life, often becoming disillusioned
    - Disgracing God’s honor-people profess salvation with unchanged lives.

J.I. Packer (Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God) makes the case that the gospel is a message about:

- God
- Sin, Sins, Sinfulness
- Jesus Christ
- A Call to Faith and Repentance

**Truth is the measuring stick of Evangelism**

**Getting the Story Straight**

- A modern American story
- A postmodern story among stories
- A personally driven and directed story
- God's Grand, True Story of Creation-Fall-Redemption-Consummation