

1 Gospel Exclusive/Narrow/Rigid

- (Matthew 7:13–14 ESV) Enter by the **narrow** gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is **narrow** and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

THE GOSPEL THAT PAUL PREACHED

- Exclusive: excluding or not admitting other things; lacking flexibility; rigid; shutting out all others from a part or share; by its nature, something that is exclusive leaves people out.

Paul preached one gospel—the gospel that he received from Jesus Christ. This gospel was narrow, exclusive and rigid. Any *different* gospel than the gospel that Paul received from Christ and delivered to them is not a gospel at all. The origin of any and every *different* gospel comes about by cursed

humans distorting the gospel of grace.

How and why does this happen? To please humans; to make the truth of the gospel more palatable or acceptable to the natural mind.

THE GOSPEL THAT CURSED HUMANS PREACH

- (1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV) *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

This natural person is incapable of accepting or understanding the gospel that

Paul preached, but his soul still calls out for some kind of good news to deal with the guilt of sin. Everyone is born onto the planet under a death sentence, and everyone in some way or another senses their coming judgment before a holy God. This person cannot comprehend God's good news—the gospel—but he feels that he has to come up with something, so he makes the teaching fit his world, and in doing so he distorts the words and makes another gospel.

- (Galatians 1:6–7 ESV) *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

THEY HAVE NO CHOICE

This is the only approach that makes sense to them. The natural person has no choice but to make the words intelligible to where he lives—in spiritual darkness. This is his realm, and in his realm, no matter how religious he is, he does not understand that he is not combating the lie but that he is part of the lie.

- (1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV) *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

THEY DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER

You maybe have heard the expression: *He doesn't know any better?* Well, the natural person *doesn't know any better*, and the result of his effort is a gospel that is inclusive and requires human effort (works).

- Inclusive: including or tending to include; broad in orientation or scope;

including everything or all types of people. For instance a religion, or philosophy of life, is inclusive when it's designed or inclined to include. The wide road in Matthew 7:13 is an excellent example of an inclusive religion that is welcoming to any and all kinds of people and their beliefs.

The wide road is easy to understand because it is a home-made religion, made right here in the U.S.A. (or whatever is the country or region of origin). It is of this world, and this world is what the natural person understands and accepts.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE HOME-MADE GOSPEL

It is a false gospel, a contrary gospel. It is a gospel that has been edited and revised by humans who not only cannot comprehend the grace of God as taught in Scripture but who reject the grace of God.

This false gospel varies in outward appearance in different religions, but look inside and you will find a gospel of works. The wiring is the same because the origin is the same—fallen, cursed humans that are trying to find salvation in a lie.

A COMMON THREAD OF THE FALSE GOSPEL

A common doctrine and practice of those who can neither accept nor understand the grace of God is to require water baptism for the forgiveness of sins. This doctrine of works distorts the clear teaching of Scripture and confuses and troubles those caught up in a gospel whose origin is in the world below and not the world above.

The Catholics, the Mormons and many Independent Christian church fellowships all have this in common: They require water baptism for the forgiveness of sins.