

What is the Good News, Part 1 by Dr. Bruce Wauchope

<https://vimeo.com/34601629?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Themes in *What Is the Good News?* – Part 1

I. The Gospel Begins with God Himself

Key concepts

- God is eternally Father, Son and Spirit.
- Love precedes creation.
- Humanity is created for participation in divine communion.
- Salvation is relational rather than contractual.

Typical Bruce formulations

"The Gospel is not primarily about solving a legal problem."

"The Gospel begins in the being of God."

Scriptures commonly used:

- John 17
- Ephesians 1
- Colossians 1:15–20
- Hebrews 1
- Romans 8:29
- 2 Peter 1:4

II. Critique of the Western Gospel

Bruce frequently contrasts what he calls the **Western gospel** with a Trinitarian understanding.

Themes include:

Western paradigm Trinitarian paradigm

Separation	Participation
Individualism	Communion
Legal standing	Union with Christ
Transaction	Relationship
Fear	Belonging
Appeasing God	Revealing the Father

Possible statements:

"We often begin with human sin instead of beginning with who God is."

"Jesus did not come to change the Father's mind about humanity."

III. Influence of Greek Dualism

Bruce often discusses:

- Plato
- Greek metaphysics
- Substance versus communion
- Western rationalism
- Individual autonomy

Concept:

Christianity absorbed categories foreign to the Hebraic worldview.

IV. Jesus as the Revelation of God

Central thesis:

Jesus is not merely a messenger about God.

Jesus is the revelation of who God eternally is.

Scriptures:

- John 1:18
 - John 14:9
 - Colossians 1:15
 - Hebrews 1:3
-

V. Inclusion in Christ

Themes Bruce repeatedly develops:

- Humanity included in Christ's Incarnation
- Objective union
- Christ as representative human
- Participation in divine life

Scriptures:

- Romans 5
 - Ephesians 1
 - Colossians 2
 - 2 Corinthians 5
-

VI. Salvation as Participation

Emphasis on:

- Perichoresis
- Communion
- Adoption
- Healing of alienation
- Transformation through union

Conceptual statement:

Salvation is sharing in the life of Father, Son and Spirit.