

# *Christ-centered versus a sin-centered gospel*

The difference between a **Christ-centered gospel** and a **sin-centered gospel** lies in their primary focus, tone, and theological implications. Both aim to present the good news of salvation, but they frame the message in very different ways.

## 1. Focus and Emphasis

Aspect	Christ-Centered Gospel	Sin-Centered Gospel
Primary Focus	Jesus—His identity, life, death, resurrection, and reign	Human sin and guilt before a holy God
Message Starting Point	Begins with who Christ is and what He has accomplished	Begins with man's sinful condition and need for forgiveness
Goal	To proclaim the glory of Christ and invite people into His kingdom	To save people from the penalty of their sins

## 2. Theological Orientation

Category	Christ-Centered	Sin-Centered
Narrative Arc	Creation → Fall → Redemption in Christ → Restoration	Fall → Judgment → Need for Salvation
View of the Gospel	Good news of the King and His kingdom	Legal remedy for human guilt
God's Role	God as Redeemer and Restorer	God as Judge and Forgiver
Human Role	Invited to follow and become like Christ	Urged to escape judgment and get saved

## 3. Common Language and Tone

Element	Christ-Centered Gospel	Sin-Centered Gospel
Tone	Hope-filled, relational, worshipful	Heavy, urgent, often fear-driven
Common Language	Kingdom, grace, resurrection, repentance, discipleship, new creation	Sin, hell, wrath, judgment, confession, forgiveness
View of Repentance	Turning to Christ in allegiance and love	Turning away from sin out of fear or duty

## 4. Strengths and Dangers

Gospel Type	Strengths	Potential Dangers
Christ-Centered	Elevates the glory of Jesus; a holistic view of salvation; discipleship-oriented	May downplay sin or judgment if not balanced
Sin-Centered	Emphasizes moral seriousness and the need for salvation	Can lead to fear-based conversions, legalism, or a narrow gospel view

## Biblical Balance

The full biblical gospel includes both sin and Christ, but it centers on Jesus, not on sin. The gospel is not merely about avoiding hell; it's about knowing, loving, and living under the reign of Jesus, the Risen King.