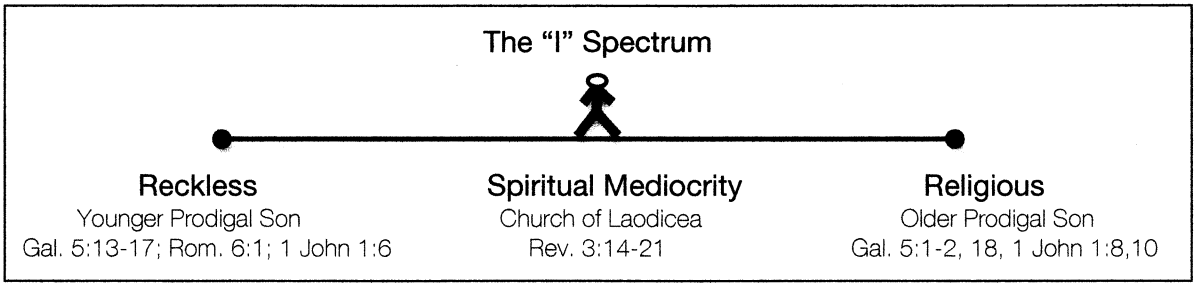
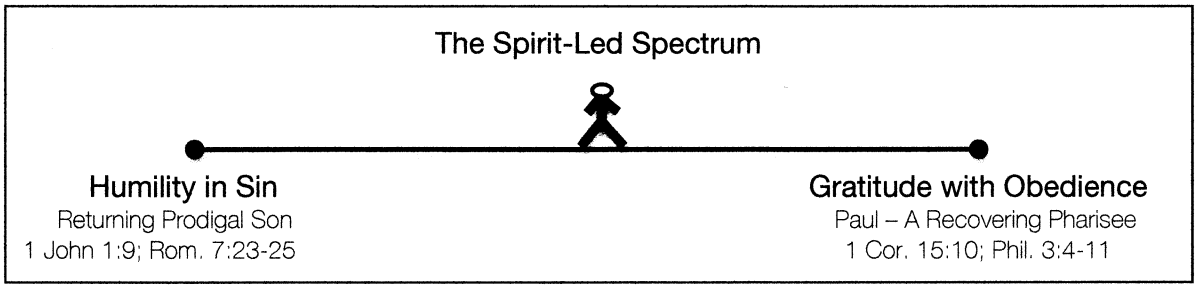
THE**GOSPEL**IS, THE **GOSPEL**IS**NOT**

Galatians 5:16-26

The Gospel is not a Religious Life – True life is *not* moralism or legalistic living (Gal. 5:1-12). The religious person strives to perfect themselves through a system of morality. It often consists of well-defined rules, levels of accountability, and boundaries. They are often burdened, overwhelmed, and joyless. The gospel is not getting better at following rules (self-righteous). The inner voice of religious person is, "I am good and I need Jesus." The world does not see Jesus, but a holier-than-thou person who is disingenuous with their sinful struggles.

The Gospel is not a Reckless Life – True life with Jesus is *not* immorality or reckless living (Gal. 5:13-15). The reckless person makes excuses for their sin and ignores conviction. The gospel is *not* indulging in any pleasure that my heart desires. The inner voice of a reckless Christian is, "God will forgive me so I can still dabble with sin". The world does not see Jesus, but a hypocritical person who shows little evidence of new life in Christ.

The Gospel is not Spiritual Mediocrity – True life with Jesus is *not* a balance between recklessness and religion. They are indifferent about their sin and also apathetic about following Jesus wholeheartedly. The spiritually mediocre person does not fully indulge in sin and also does not fully strive to obey God. The inner voice of a spiritual mediocre Christian is, "I don't want to be polarizing by strict obedience and I don't want to be ostracized by overt disobedience". The world does *not* see Jesus, but a joyless and lifeless loyalty to Jesus.



The Gospel is Jesus, not me – The gospel is the declaration that Jesus is God...and that I am not! Jesus has rescued us from the "I-centered" religion. I am dead. Jesus is alive in me (Gal. 2:20-21). True life in Christ is being real with Jesus – walking by His Spirit (Gal. 5:16-26). The gospel is not, "I'm going to do whatever I want" nor "I am going to perfect myself." The gospel is turning from oneself (repentance) and turning towards God (faith) through Jesus. This is how life in Christ begins. Jesus has called us to walk *like* Him by walking *with* Him.