



GOSPEL *for* LIFE

Gospel Smugness with Blake Long

Season 3, Episode 3 Transcript

[00:00:09] [Intro] Welcome to the Gospel for Life podcast, we help people grow by connecting truth to life. Here's your host, Darryl Dash.

[00:00:21] Darryl Dash: Welcome back to the Gospel for Life Live podcast, and today we're going to talk about evangelism.

Evangelism is hard, and not only is it hard, but the culture around us hates the message that we preach. And we know that the gospel is offensive, but what makes it even harder is sometimes we are offensive. And we need to figure out a way to share an offensive message to an offended culture without putting unnecessary barriers or offense on top of the offense of the gospel. And that's what my guest today is writing about.

His book *Gospel Smugness* is about allowing the gospel to do the offending instead of us. The author is Blake Long, and he argues that the gospel is offensive enough. Our attitude, our smugness, shouldn't get in the way of people believing in the gospel. And so Long helps us to find the problem and he points us to the solution – Jesus. He shows us how to engage with boldness and gentleness, bluntness and compassion. He encourages us to start witnessing like Jesus.

[00:01:33]: Blake Long is an author and blogger at theology-and-life.com, and I'm going to put a link to that in the show notes. And he's married to his wife Shale, and they have two little girls and a rowdy dog. He received an MTS in preaching and pastoral ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Blake, welcome to the podcast.

[00:01:59] Blake Long: Yeah, thank you for having me on, I appreciate it.

[00:02:01] Darryl Dash: So you are in the middle of real life, you've got a young daughter at home right now?

[00:02:07] Blake Long: Yes, we are in the thick of things. I have an eight to five job, so I'm gone every day. My wife is a special ed teacher at a local school here in town, so she's gone every day as well, so both kids go to daycare. But after we both get home from work, it is a hectic time. And with a three almost, well she turned two and a half today Jovi our oldest, and then Piper, who is three months, we've been dealing with a lot of sickness from her, which has been unfortunate, but it's shown me a lot of lessons in the process. So it's been a hectic time, a crazy time, but God is good all the time in the process. So it's been good even though it's been crazy times for sure.

[00:02:57] Darryl Dash: Well, those are tiring days. I mean just working like that and then having two young children at home can be really exhausting. Piper, is that named after John Piper?

[00:03:09] Blake Long: Informally. I don't want to try to date you here, but our firstborn is Jovi, she's informally named after Bon Jovi. And my wife is a big 80s music fan for some reason, even though she's my age, which is 27.

[00:03:31] Darryl Dash: Is this because the music is so good in that era?

[00:03:34] Blake Long: I guess so. I don't understand it, so I obliged because I thought it was just a cute name, and her middle name is Grace. And then yeah, Piper, she thought was a cute name, and I was like, well of course, John Piper, absolutely. And then I always joke to people who ask about it, I got to throw in some Christian hedonism, and her middle name is Joy, and I was like this is perfect.

[00:03:59] Darryl Dash: Yes, I love that, that's great. I want to get into your book a little bit. If we understand theology, we should really be the last people in the world to be proud or smug, so why is it that sometimes we're guilty of smug evangelism?

[00:04:18] Blake Long: Well in short, our sin gets in the way. And sometimes it's not smugness, sometimes we think too much. Even at my church, just the other day we were talking about evangelism. Well no, we weren't talking about evangelism specifically, but we were talking about humility. One of my pastors was going through, I think it's Andrew Murray's book *Humility* or something like that, and we were talking about being humble. And the conversation around

evangelism got brought up, and I was like, well I just wrote a book on evangelism, I have some thoughts on this. And part of the problem is sometimes we try to plan out what we're saying before the conversation happens. And then when we do that, it can kind of come across as though we're not listening. And so I wrote the book primarily because we are prideful a lot of time in evangelism. Whether we're acting as if we have it all together or 'holier than thou' or whatever it is. And a lot of times we lack empathy. I know this is a buzzword nowadays with some people, but we lose empathy, and we forget that we were once that person that we were talking to. And we forget that we used to be under the wrath of God, just like they were. And so when we forget those things and we don't listen, when we get too caught up in trying to just have a hypothetical conversation rather than just letting the Holy Spirit take the lead, we can come across as offensive whether we're trying to or not.

[00:06:02] Darryl Dash: You talk about following the example of Jesus. And I'm amazed that even though he was the Son of God and he knew people, it's amazing to see how he listens so carefully to people. And you just get the impression that as he talks to people, he's extending that compassion and grace to them, with the exception of the religious hypocrites. But sexual sinners and doubters and all kinds of people who come to him, he just exhibits that care for them. So I think there's this idea that we've got to be confrontational in evangelism. And I've certainly heard people who say I'm just prophetic, and they'll even point to "Sure Jesus was nice, but what about Paul who was sometimes very blunt and sarcastic?" So what would you say to people who say okay, it's great that you care about being nice or kind or if you want to put it in the fruit of the Spirit, right? You talk about kindness and gentleness and self-control, that's all good, but I'm prophetic. Why should they consider what you're saying?

[00:07:14] Blake Long: Honestly, it comes down again to witnessing like Christ. And so we use the example of Christ. Honestly, I haven't looked in the book in a while, so I can't even remember. Oh, I used the illustration of him and the temple, and then there's another illustration I use, but I can't remember what it was. But we forget that we have different circumstances. Evangelism is not a one size fits all encounter. I remember tweeting a while back about how the message in evangelism is not going to change ever. We're always going to have the same message, but it's not always going to be in the same manner, medium or whatever. In other words, you're not going to talk to a person the same in Starbucks with a cup of coffee as you would if you're out on the street preaching or something like that. And so it comes down a lot of times to understanding our environment. And sometimes we can use the excuse of Jesus in the temple. Jesus wasn't nice in the temple, but that doesn't mean we have to be sarcastic and rude in our conversation.

[00:08:32]: That doesn't mean we don't confront people and be blunt sometimes when we need to. That's a part of leaning on the Holy Spirit and not trying to decipher the situation so much and coming across offensive in that way. And then I think the opposite end of the spectrum, we don't want to be too nice, so to speak. There are times when we have to be more straightforward with people. And honestly, that comes down to, again, the situation, who the person is you're speaking to, and many times they're a stranger. And so we have to use our own God-given intellect and knowledge to understand the situation, but truly lean on the spirit's guidance because he will give us the words. The scriptures tell us this, and we can try to understand the personality of the person we're talking to, to see should I be more compassionate and kind with my words and soft-spoken and gentle? Or is this a place where I can be more straightforward and blunt and not come across offensive?

[00:09:36] Darryl Dash: Why should we treat virtues like kindness, gentleness, self-control and love? I mean, you write in the book about the Love chapter 1st Corinthians 13. Why should we view those as things that are appropriate all the time and not just put them on and sometimes take them off? Because I think there is this belief that maybe that's some people, personality-wise. So just make the argument for why we should always strive to be kind and gentle with self-control and love. And like you say, that's not at the expense of being truthful and blunt sometimes, but even our bluntness is going to be characterized by a kindness underneath that.

[00:10:19] Blake Long: Right, and again, you read the content off the back cover, it all comes back to Christ. Jesus displayed all of this perfectly for us, and so we definitely can't say we don't have an example of this, we have an example of it in Christ, he did it perfectly. Like you said, we are always to be kind, we're always to be gentle, we're always to be loving. The command to love your neighbor as yourself or the command to have the fruit of the Spirit is not a partial command or do it on a Monday, but not on a Sunday, so on and so forth. We're always to display these characteristics. And again, like you mentioned, it's not as if being kind doesn't mean also being blunt. There are two examples I can think of and I think I talk about this in the book. There was one Sunday afternoon I was just hanging out with Shale, my girlfriend at the time, and we had a knock at her door and she lived next to Mormon church. And I opened up the door and there's two LDS sisters and I'm going "Well, this is going to be a conversation because we had literally, just a few weeks ago just got back from a mission trip to Provo, Utah to evangelize Mormons.

[00:11:38]: And so we're both going "We had prayed for encounters, and God is bringing them to our doorstep. And so for those who are listening, who don't

know much about Mormons, they are the nicest people you will ever meet. But at the very same time and I don't really mean this with any disrespect, they're also very skittish. The moment you say something that they deem as confrontational, they will back away and they will try to exit the conversation. So I knew that coming into this conversation because these LDS were in her apartment for 3 hours. We had a great conversation, but I had to say things in that conversation that were very straightforward. Joseph Smith is a false prophet, this is a false gospel, all those sorts of things the whole conversation. And hopefully my wife can attest, but I tried to do so in the most gentle, compassionate way I could with a soft-spoken voice and all of those things. And amid all those things and hopefully doing those things right, I made one of them cry. Now they weren't mad or irritated or agitated or left the apartment abruptly, but I made them cry. We shouldn't want to make them cry, but simply the words of the gospel made them that way.

[00:13:03]: So that's one example of even as we are kind and gentle and compassionate with our words, the gospel will always offend. And my goodness, there's another example here, but I lost it. That's what happens when you ramble on for five minutes.

[00:13:20] Darryl Dash: That's a great example right there. Yeah, I think that nailed it. I was thinking as you were talking about, have you seen the book Radical Candor? The cover says it all. So she's got a graph with one quadrant, if I'm getting it straight, it's truth and the other quadrant is helpfulness. So what we would say is if you put grace and truth and you can either be unloving and untruthful or you can be truthful, but unloving or loving, but untruthful. And neither of those are satisfactory. Three of the quadrants are not what we're shooting for, we're really shooting for the loving quadrant and the truthful quadrant. And you write about that in your book, it's really easy to drift into one of the other quadrants. So give us some tips on how we can shoot for that, how we can aim to be truthful in our evangelism and yet exhibit a lot of love as we talk to people.

[00:14:22] Blake Long: Sure. So ultimately, the book comes down to displaying truth and love. I talked about in the chapter of "Truth Without Love" that is kind of directly aimed at the Christian demographic that I was specifically writing to. How we have the truth, we know the Trinity, we know Penal substitutionary atonement. If we're reformed, we know all the reformed theologies and the doctrines of grace and all this stuff and know all sorts of theology. But when it comes down to the practical aspects of life, we don't consistently display love. And I think just from my vantage point, whether it's in-person with people interacting or this is the world we live in, but Twitter, I think Twitter is worse than Facebook. We have a lot of Christians who say I'm just speaking the truth and

love, but you're not being loving. A lot of the time people will talk to unbelievers and say well that's not loving. They're making the excuse of "I'm saying this in love," but they're not truthfully doing it in love. And we use that as an excuse to be brash and harsh. And we really forget that we're missing the point in the love chapter, all of that is in vain if we don't have love. We can know all these things, but if we're not loving to people.

[00:15:51]: And yes, loving people looks different in different circumstances, absolutely, but I still think we all struggle with that scenario of trying to have the truth, but we're not loving people in the process. However that looks. I think I used this as an example in the book of say you're doing evangelism at an abortion clinic and you have to raise your voice for them to hear. And we can disagree on these things of course, but it's kind of just yelling to a woman walking into the abortion clinic saying, you're a murderer, you're a murderer and all this stuff. Whether that's true or not, that's probably not the most helpful thing you can say to that woman at that time, whether she knows she's doing what she's doing or not. And so it comes down to those things where we have to understand her situation, and to be truthful and loving. Then of course, there is the opposite side of that spectrum, which you can make the case is worse than displaying truth without love was when we have love without truth.

[00:17:08]: Honestly, when I wrote this chapter, I thought I was veering off a little bit of the point of the whole book, but I thought it kind of brought things together. Explain love without truth is really just compromising the gospel. And if we want to put ourselves in a category, we'd rather not be in the love without truth category because honestly, the majority of the time those people probably just aren't Christian. And I know Christians can truly struggle with saying if we're trying to love people, but doing it because we're fearful of their reactions and evangelism or even worse, if we don't really truly believe the gospel that we're trying to share. So that's another category we can sometimes fall into that's honestly worse. And it's kind of the progressive Christianity type of thing as well.

[00:18:00]: Then I use the example of the Apostle Paul in that last chapter of "A Supernatural Witness." I honestly can't remember what I entitled it, I changed this so many times in the process. I used the example of Paul, how Paul was outside of Christ, of course, a great example of displaying truth and love. And he was really the epitome of what we want to look for when we have the truth of the gospel and have that truth penetrate our hearts and we're able to express genuine love for people in the process and specifically in evangelism.

[00:18:40] Darryl Dash: Yeah, I think people see what they want to in Paul's life. A lot of people think that he's this guy who's harsh, but you see the emotion that he has. And he's always with people and he's always pleading with people with

tears, and you just get the affection for each of the churches that he planted. So definitely truthful and definitely loving at the same time, which is really good. So you brought up social media here. I was reading, I forget what it was, but I think it was some Christian who tweeted something and it wasn't really that controversial or anything. And I began to read the comments and I was so discouraged. These were believers commenting on this believer's rather innocuous statement. So it just seems like it is brutal these days. Give us some tips on how we can better represent Christ on social media.

[00:19:38] Blake Long: Well I'm sure everybody would say this, I don't attempt to be the guru about this, but it's something that I see and I know a lot of people see it. And I'm on all three, the bigger social platforms, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. But I truly see this the most on Twitter because I really just think it's because you can have more interaction with people. And I think a lot of it comes to the fact that I could comment on someone who's a Christian and who is more prominent. It's a better way of getting connected with them and so they can see your stuff and you can comment on all sorts of things. I think it comes down to understanding that we're still talking to souls. We're not talking to a screen, and it's much easier to not restrain our mouths when we're behind a keyboard. Christ talks about Matthew, I believe we'll give an account for every word. We'll also give an account for every word we type, if you want to put it that way. It's not as if that command gets thrown out the window because we're using our thumbs and not speaking those words.

[00:20:49]: And so practically speaking, I think a lot of it comes down to we think a lot of the time we have to get into the argument. I can't tell you the amount of people I've muted or words I've muted or people I've blocked simply for my own sanity. My heart is naturally inclined to get into arguments. So on Twitter, I have to block people that in real life I may not feel the same way, but on Twitter, their presence honestly just frustrates me sometimes to the degree that I may be sitting in the process. But like you said, it's truly discouraging, and to use an example, whether or not you want to use this in the podcast or not, we attend a Southern Baptist Church, and at least after the convention SBC Twitter was chaotic. And with the rise of the CBN network, there's been a lot of strife and conflict, and it's needless. And I think a lot of it comes down to how people think about secondary issues. And this kind of escapes the evangelism conversation a little bit, but it also revolves around our overall witness.

[00:22:25]: I talk about evangelism in the book, and that's the primary focus, but a lot of it revolves around how the outside world sees us. So if we're behaving in an unChristian manner on social media, we may not be trying to be a witness to a person specifically. But those unbelievers are seeing our conversations on Twitter and seeing us not giving people, definitely Christians, the benefit of the

doubt. We're assuming motives when we shouldn't be definitely behind a keyboard. So it's practical things like not getting into the argument even when you really want to, not saying I know this is going to stir the pot. Or making a post you know is going to ruffle feathers. There's a difference between doing that and truly making a post you want to post knowing it might ruffle feathers. And that honestly just comes down to the intent of the heart, of course. But using social media in a Christ-like manner, at least for me, I've benefited, I cut my follower count down big time. When I first got on social media, I followed probably 200 people, now I only follow 85. I do that for a reason. The people I follow on social media are the people I find encouraging, edifying, and sometimes they challenge me.

[00:23:45]: I say all that, and sometimes the people I mute or block, I find myself going to the settings and privacy parts of Twitter and going to their profile. So I'm making the same mistake they do as well. So it's just exercising wisdom and leaning on the Holy Spirit, even for something like social media, with the whole Metaverse stuff, it's going to become an even bigger thing.

[00:24:13] Darryl Dash: I was talking to a pastor earlier today, and he was saying the polarization has just ripped his people apart within the church. And yeah, it really does affect our witness rate. We're not even getting along within the body. And I don't know how we expect to get along with unbelievers who maybe are from a different political party or have different views on all these controversial issues. I want to ask you a question about evangelism because evangelism is really hard. And I remember reading a book by an evangelist, and he began the book by saying evangelism is hard. And it made me feel really good to know that even an evangelist says it's really hard. Near the end of the book, you advised us not to overthink evangelism, could you explain what you mean by this?

[00:25:05] Blake Long: Yeah. So I go through the whole book trying to show us pitfalls, trying to show us here's where we can make a mistake, here's where we're doing things wrong and all these things and trying to restrain our behavior in the process. But I wanted to make the point that a gospel that is shared maybe with too much harshness is at the end of the day better than not sharing it at all. And I think it's in Philippians, my memory is escaping me, but Paul talks about how these people are still preaching the gospel, even though they're doing it to afflict me. And so, yes, at the end of the day, don't overthink evangelism, don't overthink so much "Am I being too offensive here?" "How does my tone sound?" All these different scenarios. So I may be losing some listeners here, but I use the golf example because I've always been a golf fan, I've grown up on the golf course. And when you're playing golf, when you're over the ball, it is best to have one swing thought over the ball.

[00:26:15]: Whether that's just saying take the club straight back or just keep your eyes on the ball, whatever it is, it's just one swing thought, and that's always the most simplistic way to do it. And so when you're over the ball and you have all these thoughts going around your head of what to do with this and what to do with that, you're more prone to make a mistake. The same is true with evangelists. If I go into an evangelist encounter trying to side my tone, trying to figure out the environment, trying to figure out all sorts of stuff, we're going to lose our focus on the whole point of conversation. And so with that, I just try to make the case of leaning on the Holy Spirit, make sure you're not offensive. Of course, we don't want to not think about it at all, but at the end of the day, you're still called and commanded to preach the gospel, and if you have rough edges, he will smooth them out.

[00:27:11] Darryl Dash: That's great advice, and I can relate to that. We were doing evangelism the other week and experienced that very thing. Going up to people and you're thinking of a million things rather than the person in front of you. So yeah, I really appreciate that advice.

Well Blake, I want to ask you a couple of personal questions, but before we do that, I want to just say man, you're a guy who loves the office that comes out in your book. I don't know many people who named their kids after an 80s musician and a preacher and use golf illustration. So well done, I like it a lot.

[00:27:49] Blake Long: Absolutely.

[00:27:50] Darryl Dash: Tell me what you are you learning recently in your life?

[00:27:55] Blake Long: So two things. First, I have been reading *Deeper* by Dane Ortlund, that's the name nowadays, isn't it? Everybody knows who he is now. I've been reading *Deeper* by Dane, and it's not going to get the acclaim like *Gentle and Lowly* has because *Gentle and Lowly* quickly became my favorite book I've ever read, and I think for a good reason. But *Deeper* might not get as much notice or fame, but it's just as good in my opinion. I have it right here on my nightstand and I'm learning that first and foremost, my performance as a Christian, or God's love for me is not based on my performance. So when I wake up every day, I think we all naturally get in that mindset of okay, if I do this right, if I do that correctly, I will have more of God's love today or more of his favor. And that's just simply not the message of Scripture. The message of Scripture is as Christians, we have to keep that context in mind. As a Christian, God loves me regardless of what I do that day and how I'm doing. Thank God his love for us is not based on how we're feeling.

[00:29:16]: That is a tremendous way to get through our day is to remember that if I have a really good day, we've all heard the saying, God doesn't love me more on my good days and he doesn't love me less than my bad. His love for us is never changing because God is never changing. So that's the first thing from the book. And then the second thing is learning truly what sanctification is. We all know sanctification is growing more and more into the image of the son on a daily basis, but how do we do that? He says, going deeper into the gospel. And I just love that he talks about how the more we think on the doctrine of justification are being made righteous before God. The more we think on that, the deeper into Christ we go. That just resonates with me, and that's going to resonate with so many people. There's no one way to look at sanctification, there are different ways to look at it, but how he treats it in this book, in my opinion, has been phenomenal.

[00:30:21]: And then the other thing that I'm learning and I kind of talked to you about this before we recorded, I think, but our youngest, Piper, she's been sick basically her whole life, three months. We were both sick during delivery. My wife was sick, she had some illnesses and was vomiting in the process. And probably a month later or so, Piper started to vomit at daycare. And it wasn't just a spit up or just a little vomit here and there, but it was projectile, and so we're both very concerned about that. We went to the doctor and she got diagnosed with E. coli, of all things, and she had a UTI. And so both of those things were causing her massive issues in her stomach and whatnot. So we had to stay in the hospital for ten days because they wanted to keep her there to end the antibiotics, which is a good thing. So she got out of the hospital, doing well and then I don't know, probably a month later, she started to vomit again. And we're going, my goodness, what can we do? We don't really know what to do at this point. And all the while this is happening here's my shameless plug, okay, I'm not trying to, but it just happened.

[00:31:41]: The next book I'm writing talks about how we respond when God says no to our prayers. How do we respond to unanswered prayers? And so through this trial that we've had with Piper, many times, I said Lord heal her body, make sure everything is correct, and then here she is sick again. Technically, there's no such thing as unanswered prayer, He is always answering our prayer. Sometimes there's just no or not yet, or just wait on me or whatever it is. And I've had to learn a lot about God's goodness, I've had to learn a lot about God's timing and his Providence. Even as one who identifies as reformed. I can say I'm reformed all day long, but the practicalness of life comes and the reform goes out of my mind and I forget God's sovereignty. And so even in the midst of her being sick, he's still sovereign, he's still good, and I'm still trusting in him. And we've been to the ER four or five times within the last two months, just trying to figure out what's wrong with her. And at least as of right now, we

think we have a solution. The doctors said they don't think this is the problem, but so far so good with our mindset.

[00:32:58]: We think she has acid reflux and so we've been given her acid reflux medicine and she has not vomited, and that's been probably five days, I think. And she's also because of that, she had not fed her bottles well, but since then she's done well. And so learning through trials is something we don't want to do, but something that God uses for our good and his glory to sanctify us in the Lord. And this is the good part of Twitter which is all the quotes I see every day, and for the life of me, I cannot tell you who said it, but it was something about affliction, though, I wish I could remember it. I'm sure I favored it or something, so I can go back and look at it, but it talks a little bit about affliction and that it is basically part of how God molds us into Christ. And so we need to not look at affliction or trials as something that is the absence of his love, but it's quite the opposite, and so he uses that a lot to make us more like a son.

[00:34:13] Darryl Dash: It sounds like some pretty profound learning, the hard kind too, but the kind that God uses to shape our characters in a powerful way. What's encouraging you lately? I mean, everybody's going through a hard time, you're going through particular challenges that make it very difficult, what's kept you encouraged?

[00:34:35] Blake Long: Well because you asked that question, a millions things go around in my head, but if I can think of one is my local church. We've been at our church, Sovereign Grace Bible Church for five years, since 2016, and it is a church that is Southern Baptist. We are reformed in doctrine and we are a plurality lead of elders. And I think that is the biggest encouragement that I've been able to receive just in life as a Christian. Is being in a church that not only has a sound doctrine, not only focuses on expository preaching and truly getting into the text, even the hard parts of the text. But being in a Church that has a plurality of elders truly makes a difference in the life of a Christian because you don't get left behind. You don't go to church one day and think nobody's paying attention to you. We're a small church, we probably have 90 people on any given Sunday. And then more than anything, is the fellowship. Most Southern Baptist churches you go to, you show up at 10:20, you go to your seat, you dread when the pastor says okay, meet and greet time, and then you make a mad dash for the subway or whatever at 12:00.

[00:36:11]: We have been richly blessed at this church to know that we get there at 9:15 for our equipping hour. People are talking. I made this joke yesterday to one of the pastors' wives our church always starts late. Always. We say we start at 10:30, it's always at least 10:45 before the service starts. And my impatient self, I can get kind of irritated with it, so I have to rein in my impatience. But we

start late every time because everybody is talking to each other, nobody is really sitting down and just not saying a word to each other. We're all mingling, we're all getting together with people, we're all talking about our lives, about our struggles, just about normal things. And so it's always been such an encouragement to me that we have that. And then after the service, there are a few people that make a mad dash for the door, but for the most part, people are staying there until an hour after service. And so something that has always encouraged me is to let us not make light of or underestimate fellowship with the body of believers that God has placed around us because sanctification is truly a community project.

[00:37:35] Darryl Dash: I love your answer, and I love the fact that it's not a huge church because sometimes we think if somebody says man, I love my local church, automatically it comes to mind this big church, the well-oiled machine. And I love that what you described as a healthy church that's not that big and has got a strong community, that's so encouraging. It has been so good to talk to you. I pray that your book is used by God to spur passion for evangelism and that it's also done in a way that draws people to Christ. Where can people find out more about you and your book?

[00:38:12] Blake Long: Well, for the book specifically, since it was self-published by me, and so it's through [Amazon](#), so you can go to Amazon. It's \$12.99. If you're a Prime member, you get it in two days, we got to get our stuff in two days nowadays. I also think you can get it at Barnes and Nobles. I could be wrong, so if you go there and you don't see it, I was wrong. But last time I checked it was also on Barnes and Noble's and if you're so inclined I have copies for myself that I ship out to people, so if they want to buy through me, they can. And for what it's worth, I sign it because I'm so famous and all. So those are really three ways you can get it. You can find my blog at [theology-and-life.com](#), thank you WordPress for not giving me a practical URL but that is where I blog and I do so weekly. Usually I post a new blog post on Friday mornings so I try to do that every week. Other than that, you can find me on Twitter and Facebook and Instagram. Usually it's just @BlakeLong94, so that's a little bit.

[00:39:37] Darryl Dash: I'll keep an eye over your next book as well, look forward to reading that and it's been really good to talk to you.

[00:39:42] Blake Long: You won't know anything about Gentle and Lowly when you read the next book.

[00:39:47] Darryl Dash: That's right, I think everyone will be talking about your name, I'm looking forward to it. Blake, good to talk to you, thank you.

[00:39:54] Blake Long: I appreciate it.

[00:39:55] Darryl Dash: Hey, thanks for listening to the Gospel for Life podcast. If you're interested in growing and helping others grow, please check out our monthly newsletter, go to [Gospelforlife.com/newsletter](https://gospelforlife.com/newsletter) and please don't forget to leave a review of this podcast on your favorite podcast platform.