

# Once dead. Now alive. Christ reshaping people.

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*What's the gospel in seven words? We asked theologians, pastors and others both to answer this question and to expand on this in a few sentences. To see all the responses together as they're posted, bookmark [this page](#). Add your own version [here](#). --Ed.*

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A common tendency among believers is to think of Jesus Christ in the past tense. He's the guy we study in the Bible that some taxidermist must have mounted on a wall, much like that elk head above the cabin fireplace. He is present, and his eyes follow us around the room, but he is not really alive and active in our lives or in the world. Nothing could be further from the gospel.