

The Glory of Gospel Ministry: Part 6

2 Corinthians 5:11-15

REVIEW/CONTEXT

- 2:12-17** Christian ministry that is centered on Jesus Christ will always be triumphant before God.
- 3:1-6 (Pt. 1)** The indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit is a glorious reality of the Gospel.
- 3:7-18 (Pt. 2)** The ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ is far better and more glorious than the ministry of the Old Testament Mosaic Law.
- 4:1-6 (Pt. 3)** The gospel of Jesus Christ brightly reveals the glory of God.
- 4:7-18 (Pt. 4)** Christians can persevere through suffering in gospel ministry because of God's glorious promises.
- 5:1-10 (Pt. 5)** *The gospel of Jesus Christ gives Christians a confident courage regarding eternal life.*

EXPOSITION

BIG IDEA: Both the fear of the Lord and the love of Christ should control Christians as they pursue Gospel ministry for the sake of Jesus Christ.

I. The **fear of the Lord** is a proper motivation for Christians to pursue Gospel ministry. (5:11-13)

5:11a – *“Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others (lit. “men”).”*

Questions:

- *What truths about God should cause us to **fear** Him enough to boldly tell (“persuade”) others to both believe in Jesus Christ for salvation (3:12a; 4:1-6) and to live holy lives as Christians (5:9-10)?*
- *According to Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, and 15:33, what is “**the fear of the LORD?**” (“the beginning of knowledge, the beginning of wisdom, and instruction in wisdom”)*

5:11b – *“But what we are is known to God...”*

5:12 – *“We are not commending ourselves to you again...but giving you cause to boast about us...”* – 2:12-14, 21-23a; 3:1-3; 4:2, 7

5:13 – *“beside ourselves...right mind...”* – *“Paul’s zeal for the ministry, like that of Jesus (Mark 3:21), laid him open to the charge that he was mad. The procurator Festus made that very accusation against Paul (Acts 26:24). [Paul Barnett, “2 Corinthians” NICNT, p. 284]*

“...it is for God...it is for you” – 11:1, 16-21; 12:11 – **Gospel ministry is about serving God** (no matter what others may wrongly think) **and others** (even if they do think correctly about us).

II. **Christ's love** for His Church is a proper motivation for Christians to pursue Gospel ministry. (5:14)

- Did **Christ's love (subjective genitive)** or Paul's love for Christ (objective genitive) compel him? The context makes it clear that it is Christ's love for His Church.
- **"controls"** – restrains, grips tightly, holds in custody or under guard; rules over; seems to be a stronger word than "compel."
- **"One has died for all..."** – *Jesus Christ took on Himself the sins of the whole world (5:21).*
- **"...therefore all have died..."** – *Jesus Christ did this because all are spiritually dead in sin.*

III. Christians are called to **live for the pleasure of Jesus Christ** instead of living for their own pleasure. (5:15)

- **"...and He died for all..."** – *Paul repeats what he said in 5:14b*
- **"...that those who live..."** – *This is all Christians because they are made spiritually alive!*
- **"...might no longer live for themselves but for Him..."** – *Live differently as Christians!*
- This reinforces or develops further what Paul said in 5:9 and how Paul has been setting an example of with his manner of living for the Corinthians to observe.
- **"...Who for their sake died and was raised."** – *The love of Christ manifested!*

QUESTIONS & OBSERVATIONS

1. What controls you vs. what should control you as you live your life each day as a Christians?
2. Can people see Jesus Christ in us as we share His Gospel with them?

LOOKING AHEAD

Read the next section (2 Cor. 5:16-21) and look for connecting words, phrases, and themes.