

The Glory of Gospel Ministry: Part 7

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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.
- 5:11-15 (Pt. 6)** 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.

EXPOSITION

BIG IDEA: The Gospel of Jesus Christ creates eternal life and eternal reconciliation.

- I. **Christians who are faithful in sharing the Gospel focus on the spiritual needs of others rather than on their physical appearances. (5:16)**
 - **5:12b** – The false teachers focused on the externals and material goods of others.

- II. **Every Christian has been made a new creation through faith in Jesus Christ. (5:17)**

- III. **God gets all the glory for both reconciling sinners to Himself and recreating them anew as ministers of His “word” of reconciliation. (5:18-19)**
 - **Romans 5:11; Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 1:16-22; 1 Timothy 4:10**
 - Notice the beautiful **reality and harmony** of God's sovereign will and the ongoing responsibility of Christians to fulfill the ministry that He entrusts to them.
 - The end of **5:19** – better translated as “...the **word** of reconciliation.”

IV. As ambassadors of Christ, Christians seek both the reconciliation of sinners to God and the reconciliation of Christians to one another. (5:20-21)

- God has determined that He will “make His appeal through us” as we faithful share the Gospel as His ambassadors of reconciliation. ***This ministry is both outward-focused (evangelism) and inward-focused (discipleship/sanctification).***
- **5:21** – “...that in Him ***we (emphatic usage)*** might become the righteousness of God.”
- **5:21** – The awesome reality of Jesus Christ’s voluntary sacrifice and substitutionary atonement on our behalf should drive away all pride and hostility in our hearts towards other Christians and towards the lost.
- (“**Reconciled to Christ**” does not mean affirming or applauding the sinful lifestyles of the lost! Rather, it means repenting of sin and turning from sin to Christ in saving and sanctifying faith.) **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

OBSERVATIONS, QUESTIONS, AND DISCUSSION

LOOKING AHEAD

Read the next section (**2 Cor. 6:1-10**) and look for connecting words, phrases, and themes.