

## The Glory of Gospel Ministry: Part 9

### 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1

#### 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.
- 5:16-21 (Pt. 7)** The Gospel of Jesus Christ creates eternal life and eternal reconciliation.
- 6:1-10 (Pt. 8)** God's grace enables Christians to have Gospel ministries of integrity.

#### EXPOSITION

***BIG IDEA: Christians must live out the same Gospel that they preach.***

- I. **Christians must show longsuffering love to one another for the sake of godly admonishment, repentance, and reconciliation. (6:11-13)**
- Although Paul had admonished and “spoken freely (or frankly)” to the Corinthian Christians throughout what has become known as “The Corinthian Correspondence,” he was consistently longsuffering with them because he *really* did love them with a “wide open” heart. He was careful to not say or do anything that would “restrict” or “crush” (4:8) their hearts from loving him as they should.
  - Paul challenges the Corinthians to pursue reconciliation with God first (5:20) and then secondly with him and his ministry team. The ball was officially in their court to “widen their hearts” towards Paul!

#### Observations/Questions:

- Why is it hard for Christians to be longsuffering with one another?
- Why is it hard for Christians to speak freely or frankly to one another? Or why don't we do that more often when we see a brother or sister flirting or opening themselves up to unholy decisions?

**BIG IDEA: Christians must live out the same Gospel that they preach.**

## II. As children of God, Christians must **have a consistent, godly testimony of clear separation from the world.** (6:14-18)

- Verse 16 helps us see that Paul’s concern seems to be with the Corinthian Christians opening themselves back up to the sin of idolatry by not **fully separating** from the Corinthian’s temples and their idolatrous observances and traditions. They were being “unequally yoked with unbelievers” in some regular, ongoing way other than through marriage, conversation, or employment.
- Christians are positionally separated unto (+) Christ and are thereby called to live separate from (-) the world (**Romans 13:11-14**). This has immediate bearing on our physical bodies and how we use them (**1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; \*John 2:13-22**).
- Paul quotes from several Old Testament passages and teachings in verses 16-18:
  - **6:16** → **Leviticus 26:11-12**
  - **6:17** → **Isaiah 52:11**
  - **6:18** → Potentially referencing **2 Samuel 7:14** (“sons”) and **Isaiah 43:6** (“daughters”).

### Observations/Questions:

- Why do we as Christians struggle to regularly see our physical bodies as God’s Temple?
- How can we see idols as God sees them (as fundamentally incompatible to biblical holiness) on a regular basis?
- Notice the desire that God has for close, intimate, open fellowship with His children (“the temple of the living God;” “My dwelling;” “walk”).

## III. God’s promises of eternal fellowship and adoption will compel true, beloved Christians to **pursue holy living with a holy fear of God.** (7:1)

- God has promised to **welcome** those who obey His Word, **to be their eternal Father**, and **to always view them as His own sons and daughters that live in His family.**

### Observations/Questions:

- How can Christians “cleanse” themselves “from every defilement of body and spirit?”
- Why is the “fear of God” a necessary component to righteous and holy living?
- One day, every Christian will have their “holiness brought to completion.” What a joy! (**Philippians 1:6**)

**LOOKING AHEAD: Next section is 2 Corinthians 7:2-4.**