

The Glory of Gospel Ministry: Part 10

2 Corinthians 7:2-4

REVIEW/CONTEXT

2:12-17	Christian ministry that is <u>centered on Jesus Christ</u> will always be triumphant before God.
3:1-6 (Pt. 1)	The <u>indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit</u> is a glorious reality of the Gospel.
3:7-18 (Pt. 2)	The ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ is <u>far better and more glorious</u> 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 <u>the fear of the Lord</u> and <u>the love of Christ</u> should control Christians as they pursue Gospel ministry <u>for the sake of Jesus Christ</u> .
5:16-21 (Pt. 7)	The Gospel of Jesus Christ creates <u>eternal life</u> and <u>eternal reconciliation</u> .
6:1-10 (Pt. 8)	God's grace enables Christians to have Gospel ministries of integrity.
5:16-21 (Pt. 9)	<i>Christians must live out the same Gospel that they preach.</i>

EXPOSITION

BIG IDEA: Christian love for one another is designed to go both ways.

I. Christians must receive (or welcome) other Christians that speak the truth of God's Word to them in love. (7:2; 6:11-13; Ephesians 4:15-16)

- A. Christians who speak God's truth in love must be careful to not **wrong** others. (1:12, 17-18, 2:17; 4:2, 5; 6:3-4)

Q: Are you really pursuing your brothers or sisters in Christ in **biblical love** when you endeavor to share God's truth with them? (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:1)

- B. Christians who speak God's truth in love must be careful to not **corrupt** (or defraud) others.

Q: Are you really pointing others to **God's truth** when you endeavor to share His truth (in love) with others? (Instead of unbiblical traditions or questionable views of God's Word?) – 1 Corinthians 13:17; 15:33; Ephesians 4:22

- C. Christians who speak God's truth in love must be careful to not **take advantage** of others.

Q: Are your **motives** truly right when you endeavor to speak God's truth (in love) to others?

II. Christians must be willing to be “in for the long haul” of suffering long in loving one another. (7:3; 3:2-3; 6:11; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a)

- A. Christian love pursues reconciliation rather than condemnation.
- B. Christian love is not temporal but is willing to endure great testing.
- C. Christian love is focused on God’s glory through discipleship rather than only earthly relationships.

III. Gospel ministry overflows with joy for Christians as they manifest longsuffering love and abundant comfort amid regular afflictions. (7:4)

- A. Gospel ministry requires frank boldness about God’s truth. (6:11)
- B. Gospel ministry requires open transparency about God’s truth.
- C. Gospel ministry affirms and rejoices in Christian love between Christians.

BIG IDEA: Christian love for one another is designed to go both ways.

LOOKING AHEAD: Next section is 2 Corinthians 7:5-16 (“The Joy and Comfort of Godly Repentance and Reconciliation”).