

- b. This kind of learning through worship overflows into loving, Christ-centered, care.

B. Grace and gratitude

The overflow of God's grace to us is always gratitude to Him, and grace to others.

Let the glorious Story about Jesus transform you from self-protecting, self-absorbed restless wanderers into a caring, loving, instructing community filled with grace through Gospel saturated singing!

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What was Cain's anti-community mindset? How does Christ's Story confront that mindset?
- How does Colossians 3:16 adjust your vision of the local church? Does it adjust your view of what church is all about?
- Why is faithful Gospel preaching essential to fulfilling the instruction of this verse? What responsibility do we have in stewarding the preached Word? How can we insure more faithfulness in that stewardship?
- What can we learn from each of the 4 uses identified for the word translated "admonish" as listed in I. A. ii. a-d?
- Why is it important to keep 3:12-15 connected to 3:16?
- What are the 2 obstacles to speaking to one another as instructed here? How have these obstacles effected you?
- Why do you think Gospel songs were so important to the Colossians? How do songs teach doctrine in a way differently that merely study?
- Are you regularly singing songs of grace to God in a way that both instructs you in the Gospel and trains your heart's affections? How might you grow in this?

Gospel Transformed Community

Jerry Cisar—February 7, 2010

Text: Colossians 3:16

The Story of Jesus at the Center of Our Community

A. From Selfish to Selfless: *Gospel grace transforms loners into a counseling community with songs.*

B. "the word of Christ"

i. Douglas Moo: *"the message that proclaims Christ."*

ii. 1:28 *"we proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching..."*

C. "...dwell in you richly..."

The church community is to be filled with the message of Christ as a palace is adorned with riches.

I. Community: Faithfully Applying the Story to One Another

A. *"teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..."*

i. **Teaching:** giving instruction

a) Matt 28:19-20

ii. **Admonishing: 4 uses of this word help define it:**

a) Eli and his sons (1 Samuel 2:29-32; 3:12-13)

b) Acts 20:31 Paul to the Ephesians elders

- Not dispassionate or cold; engaged, personal and persistent!

c) 1 Corinthians 4:14

- Not condemning, or shaming, but tender.

d) Romans 15:14

- Every believer filled with the treasures of the Gospel is competent and obligated to admonish one another in grace.

iii. Don't go without being clothed! (3:12-15)

B. Two significant obstacles

i. A self-oriented mindset in the speaker

- 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Our problem might be that we thought church was an event we attend or an organization we belong to, but failed to see it as a calling that shapes our lives.

ii. A self-oriented mindset in the hearer

C. Serve one another through Gospel ministry.

Paul Tripp: "...when God calls you to Himself, He also calls you to be a servant, an instrument in His redeeming hands. All of his children are called into ministry, and **each of them needs the daily intervention this ministry provides.** If you followed the Lord for a thousand years, **you would still need the ministry of the body of Christ as much as you did the day you first believed.** ... God uses people, who are them-selves in need of change, as instruments of the same kind of change in others."

Bonhoeffer: "The basis upon which Christians can speak to one another is that each knows the other as a sinner, who, with all his human dignity, is lonely and lost if he is not given help. This is not to... disparage him in any way. On the contrary, it is to accord him the one real dignity that man has, namely, that though he is a sinner, he can share in God's grace and glory and be God's child.... **We speak to one another on the basis of the help we both need.**"

II. Community grows from Communion: Filling your hearts through singing Gospel saturated songs.

A. "singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in grace to God."

i. Without the printing press, how are these young Christians to have the Gospel Story dwelling in them richly?

ii. Singing teaches truth while training the heart.

a) Doctrine is about worship!

- Doctrine is intended to reach our affections.