

III. Masters You Have a Master (4:1)

A. As Christian masters, there is a new sense of what is right.

i. Masters are slaves also!

a) 1 Corinthians 7:22

ii. Philemon 10-16

The Gospel transforms everything we say and do with everyone as we bring Christ into even the most intimate or the most unjust relationships.

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.

- How does the command, “Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” mean that we can no longer say, “The Bible doesn’t really say anything about _____.”
- Why is it important to make sure we place “everything” in the context of “everyone”?
- How might you need to begin to bring the Gospel into your home? Into your workplace? Into unjust relationships?
- What relationship do you have that might most be in need of adjustment in this way? What specific Gospel adjustment is needed?
- What “sore spots” did this message touch in you? How is the Gospel calling you to bring Christ into that area of life?

Total Redemption:

Gospel Transformation in Every Relationship (part 2)

Jerry Cisar—February 21, 2010

TEXT: Colossians 3:17—4:1

Introduction: Everything with Everyone

A. *The Gospel is to be pervasive in everything we do.*

i. **total depravity:**

a) Millard Erickson: “*Total depravity means that sin infects all of what a human is...*”

ii. **total redemption:** Jesus Christ is to have a *comprehensive redeeming effect* in the *totality of your life*.

➤ Erickson: In sanctification *God is at work renewing the whole of what we are.*

B. “*In the name of the Lord Christ.*”

i. **as a representative of Jesus.**

C. **Paul places everything, in the context of everyone.**

i. **Family:** *The Gospel transforms the most intimate of human relationships.*

ii. **Slave/Master:** *The Gospel transforms the most unjust of human relationships.*

I. The Most Unjust Human Relationships (3:22-25)

A. Slavery: “an institution by which, contrary to nature, a person is subjected to an alien domination.” It is, according to Murray Harris, “some-one whose person and service belong wholly to another.”

B. **This is total redemption in a depraved world!**

II. Slaves You Have an Inheritance

A. This one gets the longest treatment... no doubt there were many sore spots!

i. Colossians 3:11

ii. “*earthly masters*” = *masters according to the flesh*.

iii. Therefore, **in everything...** work for Him!

iv. Vs. 23 *work from the core of your being!*

B. How in the world can a slave really be expected to work from the core of his being?

i. **vs. 24: *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.***

a) For the slave, this was a radical statement:

P.T. O'Brien (WBC): “*Paul now asserts to the members of the congregation who were slaves and under Roman law could never inherit anything, that their heavenly Lord can be trusted to give his reward at the end of the day.*”

b) *The slave could do everything in the most unjust of relationships with all his heart because he is assured that Christ will reward him richly.*

ii. **vs. 25: *For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.***

a) 1 Peter 2:18-23

b) Psalm 10

- Often God seems like He is distant in those times... but He is not.
- The unjust master/ wicked man seems to have the upper hand and no consequences.
- The victim commits himself to God!
- The victim need be terrified no more!

c) Anyone being called to obey or submit is going to be tempted to fear.