

THE GOSPEL AND PASTORAL CHARACTER

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Introduction –

I. The Character of a Man

A Definition of “character” –

So, in what does *good* character consist?

I Timothy 4:7-8

II Peter 1:3

Romans 8:29

Galatians 4:19

2 Peter 1:1-11

Summary – *The only way this kind of character is going to happen in a man is if his life has been and is continuing to be transformed by the gospel.*

II. The Power of the Gospel

Colossians 1:5-6

1. **The Gospel changes your fundamental standing.**

Colossians 1:21-22

Romans 5:1

2. **The Gospel changes your fundamental understanding.**

3. **The Gospel changes your fundamental ability.**

II Peter 1:3

4. **The Gospel changes your fundamental aim.**

II Peter 1:3

Colossians 1:9

“The Christian life is a process of renewing every dimension of our life—spiritual, psychological, corporate, social—by thinking, hoping, and living out the ‘lines’ or ramifications of the gospel.” Tim Keller

So, in anticipation of making the “connection” between our character and the gospel, here are four questions to ask (i.e. questions that should help us begin to think fruitfully about the connection between a particular character issue and the new gospel reality of my life).

1. **Where do I now stand with God because of the gospel?**
2. **What new insight do I have into this situation because of the gospel?**
3. **What is now possible because of the gospel?**
4. **What is in keeping with the gospel in this situation?**

III. Making the Connection – Three Common Scenarios

- A. Receiving Criticism
- B. Lie or Tell the Truth
 1. The situation –
 2. The temptations –
 3. The character quality –
 4. The gospel connection –
 - 1) new standing
 - 2) new understanding
 - 3) new ability
 - 4) new aim
- C. Taking Responsibility/Leading
 1. The situation –
 2. The temptations –
 3. The character quality –
 4. The gospel connection –
 - 1) new standing
 - 2) new understanding
 - 3) new ability
 - 4) new aim

Conclusion – I Timothy 4:16 / II Peter 1:3 / Colossians 1:21-23