

Session 7: 1 Corinthians 6

Disagreements in the church...Desecration of the Temple Where the Spirit lives...Degrading One's Commitment to Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8, *"If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? ² Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴ Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? ⁵ I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? ⁶ But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers! ⁷ The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸ Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters."*

Paul is dealing with a problem which specially affected the Greeks.

Note: Jews did not ordinarily go to law in the public courts at all....they settled things before the elders of the village or synagogue....more in a family spirit than a legal spirit.

Jewish law specifically forbade a Jew to go to law at all in a non-Jewish court...considered blasphemy against the divine law of God.

To the Greeks, however, exact opposite...the law courts were their chief entertainment. Quite an ordeal...and it was on display for the world to see.

Therefore....there were probably some Greeks bringing law suits and the love of going to court against those that did not agree with them....into the church.

Do you know anyone like that? Always looking for some wrong made against them....and looking for someone or an organization to sue? It is "in their blood"...so to speak.

Paul wanted to know how anyone in the church could think that the just could get a fair trial in an unjust court.....Why not take care of any disagreement within the church...not on the outside.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men^[a] ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

Paul lists a catalog of sins that is a grim commentary on the debauched civilization in which the Corinthian Church was growing up.

There are certain things which are not pleasant to talk about...it wasn't then and should not be now.

This was the environment of the early Christian Church; and we see that human nature has not changed very much....If not at all!

We need to take note of what Paul says about these sins that were listed....and the people that still commit those sins....

“Such were some of you!”

“Were”...past tense....

We need to ask ourselves this question: Are all those “old sins” in our past?

Question of the week: Why do you think Christians fail to see the depravity of man...and not seek to run from sin's pull on our fleshly desires?

We have been bought with a price....washed in the blood...but we still wallow in the pigpen of life. Why?



1 Corinthians 6:12-20, “¹²“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

Paul presents and refers to a whole new series of problems that was affecting the Church at Corinth...ending with a summons, “Glorify God with your body.”

The Greeks always looked down on the body.

A quote from a Greek Christian living at the time, *“I am a poor soul shackled to a corpse.”*

To the Greek Christian, the important thing was the soul, the spirit of man; the body was a thing that did not matter.

Two (2) attitudes produced with this philosophy:

1. **Self-discipline, self-denial of the body**.....to the point of running from any mention of the body's appetites that were normal for God's creation.

Volunteering for monastery assignment, monks, giving their lives to abnormal treatment.

2. Since the body was not important, one could do what he/she liked with it.

The soul is saved, but the body was not a part of the salvation experience.

The complication came with the doctrine of freedom...

The thought: *"If the Christian man is the freest of all men, then is he not free to do what he likes, especially with this completely unimportant body of his?"*

Paul's response:

- **One of these days everything will pass away...but, the personality, the man as a whole will not pass away; he is made for union with Christ in this world and a closer union in the hereafter.**
- **Because God's spirit dwells in us, we have become a temple of God; and so our very bodies are sacred.**
- **Christ died to save not a bit of man, but the whole man, body and soul.**
- **Man's body is not his own to do with as he likes; it is Christ's and he must use it, not for the satisfaction of his own lusts, but for the glory of God.**

Two (2) great thoughts here:

1. **Though man is free to do anything, he will let nothing master him.**

It is easy to allow habits to master us; but Christ enables and strengthens us to master them.

We need to ask ourselves: Will we master our bodies or be a slave to it?

2. **We are not our own...We are not a self-made man!**

The Christian is a man who thinks not of his rights...but of his debts.

That debt....Christ died for us and we owe Him for what cost Him His life.

If you are a Christian...born again...washed in the blood...saved by faith and the grace of God, you have the Holy Spirit living in you.

Romans 8:9, "You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

Check your credentials!

Do you honor God by honoring your body, soul and spirit?