

Student Guide

Church Talk – A Study in 1 Corinthians 6 A Responsibility Toward Ethical Living

Big Idea:

Paul isn't just correcting bad behavior—he's revealing forgotten identity.
Holiness isn't just what you avoid—it's who you belong to.

Identity Before Behavior

Paul does not begin by shouting, "Stop sinning!"
He begins with one repeated question:
"Do you not know?"

- Do you not know you will judge the world?
- Do you not know you will judge angels?
- Do you not know your bodies are members of Christ?
- Do you not know you are the temple of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you not know—you are not your own?

Paul's point:

Your main problem is not immorality—it's identity.
You are living beneath who you are.

Identity Truths from 1 Corinthians 6

Write down what each one means to you personally:

Truth	What it means to me
I will judge the world	
I will judge angels	
My body is a member of Christ	
My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit	
I am not my own—I was bought	

Discuss:

- How does believing these things change how we live?
 - Which one do you often forget?
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Part I: Lawsuits and Conflict in the Church

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 6:1–8

Paul confronts believers who were taking one another to secular court instead of resolving issues in the church.

Paul's Concerns:

1. The Church will judge the world. (v. 2)
2. The Church will judge angels. (v. 3)
3. The Church abandoned discipline.
4. They tolerated some sins but exposed others.
5. They refused to suffer wrong.
6. They damaged their witness before unbelievers.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul say it's better to "suffer wrong" than damage the testimony of the church?
2. Why do personal rights sometimes become more important to us than God's reputation?
3. What is the difference between winning a fight—and winning people?

Reflection:

How have you seen conflict between Christians hurt the reputation of the church?

Part II: Sexual Ethics and Christian Liberty

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 6:12–16; 1 Corinthians 8:8–13

The Corinthians had two slogans:

- "All things are lawful for me."
- "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food."

Paul responds:

"All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful."

"All things are lawful, but I will not be dominated (enslaved) by anything."

Paul's Teaching on Liberty:

1. I may choose not to do something *for the sake of my brother or sister in Christ*.
2. I may choose not to do something *to protect myself from addiction or slavery*.

Reflection Activity:

Fill in the blanks:

Liberty Issue **Could it hurt a younger believer? Could it enslave me?**

Social Media

Alcohol / Parties

Music / Entertainment

Dating Boundaries

Discuss:

- How can something that is not bad still become harmful?
 - When is freedom actually slavery?
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Part III: Your Body is Not Your Own

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 6:17–20

“You are not your own—you were bought with a price.
So, glorify God in your body.”

What Paul Teaches About the Body:

1. The body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
2. The body is destined for resurrection by God’s power.
3. The body is a member of Christ.
4. Joined to the Lord—we become one spirit with Him.
5. The body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.
6. We must honor God in our bodies—because we were bought.

Illustration Reflection:

Temple Maintenance – How do we care for a temple?

Temple Care Practice What it looks like today

Cleansing the temple Repentance

Guarding the gates

Keeping the altar lit

Renewing the temple

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to say, “I am not rental space—I am holy ground”?
 2. What areas of your life need “temple maintenance” right now?
 3. What would change if you believed—deeply—that God truly dwells in you?
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Key Takeaway:

“What you believe about God’s presence IN you will shape your behavior THROUGH you.”

Which of these do you most need to remember this week?

I am the temple

I belong to Christ

My body carries His presence

My freedom must not cause someone else to fall

Holiness is preparation for presence