

## From Sinners to Saints

### 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

- If you ever thought that going to Church only will fix your problems the book of 1 Corinthians will set you straight real quick, as these believers were doing everything from sexual immorality, drunkenness, idolatry, being divisive, even taking each other to court and suing one another, if the world was doing it, so were they. Thankfully the Apostle Paul gives us a blueprint of how the Church was to handle such behavior.

#### V1-11

- For unrepentant behavior we are told to first confront the individual or individuals about their sin, and give them an opportunity to repent and offer to walk with them in the restoration process. But if they are unwilling to repent of their sin and insist on carrying on as if there was nothing wrong with what they were doing then the Church was to put them out of the congregation and not associating with them in private by having them over for dinner or any fellowship activities > **2 Thess 3:14-15**.
- This was to cause them to miss what they'd been given, and appreciate the privilege of being in right fellowship with God and the saints, and hopefully lead them to repentance as they think on the goodness of The Lord.
- But sadly, most churches don't practice what scripture commands when it comes to sinful behavior within the congregation, and it leads to more sin being committed in the church, which causes a lack of power displayed in the community by the church, as sin weakens not strengthens the body of Christ.
- **V1-3** not only did the unsaved know about the Corinthian immorality but they were also aware of them suing each other in court. Problems and disagreements are always going to arise between people, that is a given, but how we handle these situations really show whether we are new creations or not.
- Paul uses a strong phrase to describe how he can't believe how carnal they are acting > "**dare any of you**" this is how shocked Paul is that any of them would think of taking a brother or sister to court before the unrighteous seeking justice. **V3** is the first of six "**do you not know**" phrases in this chapter, and he speaks this to their shame, as they should know but sadly they don't because of their disobedience.

- Paul reminds the Corinthian Church that believers will reign with Christ and in doing so we will judge the world and even Angels, this is fascinating isn't it? But when you think about it at the great white throne judgement where the unsaved and fallen angels or demons will be cast into the lake of fire, Christians will be there with Jesus testifying against them and their evil in rejecting The Savior of the world.
- If believers are being prepared right now for such a glorious destiny, why do the Corinthian Church allow those who we will one day see cast into the lake of fire decide disputes among the Christians, it makes absolutely no sense spiritually.
- **V4-6** afterward he asks “**is there not a wise man among you, who will be able to judge**”? Church problems, disputes should be settled within the Church, instead of taking each other to court and letting the unsaved decide what's best, who don't have the Spirit of God living inside of them, neither desire the will of God to take place in anyone's life. Just so you know Paul was not against all legal action, for in **Acts 22:25, 25:10-11** he appealed to the Roman courts for his rights.
- However what he was against and scripture clearly points out is brother going against brother in a court of law with the unsaved deciding what happens. This is never an appropriate method of settling disputes or matters of the Church. Paul is now going to show the attitude that believers should have when wronged.
- **V7** instead of looking to be justified Paul says take the wrong being done to you, oh oh, that is a no no for many of us, you mean I am in the right but I am to allow those in the wrong to get away with it. Yes, we have become like the modern American “**addicted to our own rights**” but when you became a Christian your rights no longer belong to you they belong to God, and He says its better to let yourselves be cheated than to defend your rights at the expense of His glory.
- **Math 5:38-42** applies to how we are to respond to the unsaved or saved person trying to wrong us, we are never told to defend ourselves, and exercise our rights, instead we are to give into their demands in hopes of winning them to Christ.
- **V8-11** the person who is doing the wrong is not getting away with anything, as The Lord is just, but what annoys us is that we are not encouraged to give the offending person what they deserve. God reminds all believers that we have been delivered from such behavior that was once a part of our lifestyles.

- Whether was sexual immorality, Scripture covers it all here, just pick one, but he doesn't stop there he includes stealing, covetousness, drunkenness, those who cause dissention everywhere they go, people who obtain money, property, favors using force, threats or intimidation, anyone who through means of the flesh is all about getting and having their way, these individuals are not saved Paul says period!
- We should understand this more than any as this used to be us, I was exactly like this, therefore I can recognize when people are still living in bondage to any of these things that are listed here. In sharing this Paul is saying to the person who is doing the wrong, check yourself and your heart and see if you are saved, because make no mistake about it, you won't be getting away with anything in eternity.
- In listing these things and saying anyone who practices such lifestyles will not inherit the Kingdom of God, how can anyone try and say God is okay with any of these characteristics being acceptable for a believer? Anyone could have at one time lived a lifestyle like this, but to continue with no conscience of doing wrong, Paul says we were washed, sanctified, and justified, we were cleansed from these things in The Name of The Lord Jesus and The Spirit of our God.