

# L72 | I Corinthians | All Things Are Not Expedient | 1 Cor. 6:12-20

## I. Intro/Review:

- The wisdom of the world and God
  - The riches of the world and God
- Fornication problem
- Lawsuit problem

## II. Preview:

- 4th Problem - Defilement (continuation of fornication and lawsuits)
- Argument of "all things lawful unto me" isn't how we are to view the Christian life, but rather that is how the world viewed and views things.
- Paul's "but's" are the proper spiritual thinking

## III. Sermon:

{:12} - **"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."**

- **Review** | Comparison of the wisdom and riches of the world to the wisdom and riches of God, from the spirit of the world and the spirit of God, from the vocation of the world to the vocation of God, from the identity of the world to the identity of we have of God.
  - 1 Corinthians 2:12-15 - comparing spiritual things with spiritual; judge all things
  - "but" - adversative conjunction, exception
    - Four "but's" in :12-13
- **"All things are lawful unto me"**
  - Argument this is the viewpoint of the world that the Christians are embracing
    - **Question #1** - Is Paul saying this is the wisdom of God is that all things are lawful unto me?, or is this the world's wisdom saying this?
    - **Obs. #1** - Context
      - 1) Chapter 5 - Fornication
      - 2) Chapter 6 - Lawsuits
      - 3) Chapter 6:9-10 - List (all things)
        - a) Chapter 2:15 - "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, ye he himself is judged of no man."
    - Many of the things on the list are lawful

- **Question #2** - What does "lawful" mean?
  - Definition
    - Webster's 1828 - agreeable to law; conformable to law; allowed by law; constituted by law; legal; rightful
    - Bible - Ezra 7:24 - "it shall not be lawful to impose"
      - Ezekiel 18:5 - "...is lawful and right"
      - Ezekiel 18:19 - "...lawful and right"
  - Historical Use
    - Matt. 12:4 - eating of shewbread (David); eating ears of corn on sabbath
    - Matt. 12:10 - to heal on the sabbath days
    - Matt. 19:3 - put away wife for every cause
    - Matt. 22:17 - pay tribute to Caesar
    - Mar. 6:18 - Herod having his brothers wife
    - Jn. 5:10 - carry bed on sabbath
    - Jn. 18:31 - put any man to death
    - Acts 19:39 - lawful assembly
    - Acts 22:25 - to scourge a Roman
    - 2 Cor. 12:4 - unspeakable words - lawful for a man to utter
    - 1 Tim. 1:8 - lawfully use of law
    - 2 Tim. 2:5 - strive for masteries lawfully
  - Categories
    1. Lawful according to the law of Moses
    2. Lawful according to the grace of Christ
    3. Lawful to the law and wisdom of men
    4. Lawful according heaven and the wisdom of God
    5. Lawful according to the rules of sports
- **Question #3** - Does being washed, sanctified, and justified make unrighteousness permissible, legal, and right for the believer?
  - The wisdom of the world isn't lawful
  - Fornication isn't lawful
  - Going to law isn't lawful
  - Identity (Rom. 6)
  - Teaching (Eph. 4 - Titus 2)
  - 1 Cor. 10:20-22 (:23)
  - 2 Cor. 6:4-7:1
- Summary
  - 1 Corinthians so far is the teaching by correction, reproof, and instruction the Holy Ghost through the apostle Paul comparing the spirit of the world to

the spirit of God.

- "All things are lawful unto me," is part of the spirit of the world, but not all things are lawful unto the believer according to 1 Corinthians so far and Romans.
  - All sins God forgives
    - Attitude as unbeliever (commends His love)
    - Attitude as believer (much more love)
  - No sin does God allow, is permissible, or is right, or legal
    - Not for the unbeliever - God's wrath against it
    - Not for the believer - not accepted, not pleasing, grieves
- **"all things are lawful unto me,"**
  - The world and the spirit of the world manifest in one way by their laws and what they deem as legal and right is still the wisdom of the world.
  - In other words, we cannot justify unrighteousness because it is permissible by the world's norms and standards, their laws, etc.
  - **Obs. #2 - "all things"** - the list of unrighteousness
  - Paul is stating the thought and the reality that "all things are lawful unto me".
  - **"unto me"** - what the world freely gives unto you, or what God has freely given unto you
    - 1 Cor. 2
- **"but all things are not expedient"**
  - **"all things"** - the list of unrighteousness
  - **"expedient"**
    - Definition | Webster's 1828 | hastening; urging forward. Hence, tending to promote the object proposed; fit or suitable for the purpose; proper under the circumstances.
    - Unrighteousness is not fit, suitable, or proper under the circumstances that we are washed, sanctified, and justified.
      - Unrighteousness is not fit, suitable, or proper for the purpose of the kingdom we inherit and the vocation by which we are called.
    - Translated | profitable, profit, better, good
    - **Romans 1:28** - "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things

which are not convenient;"

- God never made the mind for ungodliness
- God never made the body for unrighteousness
- Man with their reprobate mind did those things not fit and suitable for their purpose
- In Christ God has put us in the position to use our mind and body for that which is expedient, that is, for Him.
  - To be renewed in the mind to do good works.
- **Question #4** - What is expedient?
  - Don't wrong your brother, don't defraud brother, don't go to law before the unjust.
  - 1 Cor. 10:33 - "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of man, that they may be saved."
  - Grace and charity as given in the Word of God. (Your life, what God has given unto you)
- **Obs. #3** - The laws of men may say sin and ungodliness is right, but it isn't expedient to who we are, what we are called to, to our vocation, etc.
  - Are we doing that which is expedient?
  - Do we know what is suitable and fitting to who God has made us to be in Christ?
  - Do we know our vocation and what things are for that purpose?
  - Are we taking that knowledge and wisdom into everything?

#### **IV. Conclusion:**

- The basis for our judgments isn't what the world provides and says is right to its purpose, but what God says is right for His purpose.
- Next proposition - not only what is right, but what is "for" me; that is, what is for my good - presently or future.
  - Rom. 8:28