



TEACH ME
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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CHAPTER

6

1 CORINTHIANS

Divisions in the Church



1 Corinthians: Chapter 6

If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)

Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)

Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)

Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)

REVIEW

As you read 1 Corinthians 6, remember the prior context. Paul is continuing to make his point that the Corinthians are judging incorrectly. As Paul points out in chapter 5, the Corinthians lack the correct judgment to remove immorality from their midst, they also have divisions among them. The issue at hand in chapter 6 was introduced back in chapters 1; 3:4, and 4:6. Because of these divisions (one saying, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men?), they are showing no care for the “other” in the body. Instead, they are bringing one another before the court rather than judging correctly in the church.

In other words, it would be better for one to be wronged than to bring dishonor to the church of Christ. Paul makes this point in the second part of this chapter (1 Cor. 6:13-20). In these verses, Paul sums up his whole argument from chapters 5-12. Paul is being judged (translated “examined”). His defense (which aligns with his rebuke of the Corinthians in 6:1-12) is that while all things are “lawful” for Paul, all things do not edify the body of Christ.

Thus, building up (or edifying) the body of Christ is central to everything that he does. Food and the stomach will be done away with, but the body of Christ is to serve Christ. Further, one should not take the body of Christ (of which each is a member) and join it to a prostitute. Thus, Paul instructs the Corinthians to flee immorality since it is not just an offense against oneself, but against the body of Christ. Paul’s instruction for correct judging comes in a simple command, “glorify God in your body.”



1 Corinthians: Chapter 6

MONDAY

Listen to the Chapter 6 podcast.

TUESDAY

The phrase being translated as “his neighbor” is the Greek phrase *ton heteros* which, if literally translated, means “the other.” The word *heteros* (usually translated as other, or another) appears in 3:4; 4:6; 6:1; 10:24, 29; 12:9, 10; 14:17, 21 (2x), and 15:40 (2x, translate as “one” and “another”).

Read through these verses and see if you can track how Paul is addressing the divisions in Corinth.

WEDNESDAY

All too often, we know one verse in one context (e.g., Matt 7:1, “Do not judge so that you will not be judged”) and mistakenly think that it the verse is saying something that it is not (read Matt 7:2-5, or the Sermon on the Mount as a whole for that matter). The New Testament uses that root word about 560 times! In 1 Corinthians, Paul uses the root word for “to judge” 41 times! Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 14 are loaded with it. Even chapters 7, 9, and 12 make mention of it. In chapter 6, Paul has quite a bit to say about “judging.”

Read chapter 6 again.

Is Paul instructing the church to judge? If so, how is the church to judge?

How does this apply to the church today?



1 Corinthians: Chapter 6

THURSDAY

In light of yesterday's study, let's take that discussion one step further in your reflection on this passage. In 1 Corinthians 6:11 Paul states that the believers in Corinth were "washed" and "sanctified" and "justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." This "washing" language is not unfamiliar in Paul's letters.

Look up Ephesians 5:26 and Titus 3:5.

Also, read Paul's own defense before the Jews which is recorded in Acts 22. Pay special attention to verse 16.

Now, read 1 Corinthians 12 (pay special attention to verse 13).

Can you see the point that Paul is making? What is it?

Does it apply today?

FRIDAY

Here's your assignment for today.

- **Write one sentence that states the problem in the church at Corinth.**
- **Second, write one sentence about what is causing the problem in Corinth.**
- **Next, write one sentence stating Paul's solution to their problem.**
- **Finally, write one sentence about why the Corinthians should listen to Paul.**

Now, read what you have written.

Do these things still apply today?