

1 Corinthians Chapter Six: Paul Instructs on Loving the Brethren

Opening Question: How was the Corinthians' failure to love one another manifested in this chapter? How was Paul's love for the other manifested in this chapter?

Key Takeaways:

1. Paul continued to make the point that the Corinthians were judging incorrectly.
2. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to rightly judge within the body of Christ.
3. The Corinthians were wrongly looking to worldly courts to settle their disputes.
4. The Corinthians were showing no care for the "other" as demonstrated by the divisions that existed among them.
5. Paul defends his ministry by making the point that while all things were lawful for him, not everything edified the body of Christ.
6. Paul chose to abstain from things that did not build up the body of Christ.
7. The command "glorify God in your body" included their individual body as well as the corporate body of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read aloud together 1 Corinthians chapters 1-6. Connect the issues in chapter 6 to Paul's overall message. How are the actions of the Corinthians in this chapter at odds with the body of Christ? What motivated the Corinthians to devalue the body of Christ?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:4; 4:6; 6:1; 10:24, 29; 12:9,10; 14:17, 21, and 15:40 (translated as "one" and "another") and track the word "the other" (ton heteros in Greek). Explain what Paul was instructing the Corinthians regarding their divisions.
3. Discuss Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 6:15-19 that an individual's sin of immorality attaches the entire body of Christ and Christ Himself to the immoral act and not just the individual who is participating in the sin. How does this shape your view of sexual sin? Why are the imperatives to flee immorality and glorify God in your body so important for both the individual as well as the corporate body of Christ?

Practical Application:

1. Re-read 1 Corinthians chapters 1-6. Write one sentence that states the problem in the church at Corinth. Write one sentence about the cause of the problem in Corinth. Write one sentence stating Paul's solution to the problem in Corinth. Write one sentence about why the Corinthians should listen to Paul.
2. Think about your answers in the previous question. How do these same things apply to the church today?
3. Re-read 1 Corinthians 6. Was Paul instructing the church at Corinth to judge? If so, how were they to judge? How does this apply to the church today?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for Paul's instructions to the Corinthian church. May Paul's instructions serve to guide us as members of the body of Christ. Give us discernment as we seek to build up the body of Christ and to rightly handle sin within the body. Our desire is to glorify You in all that we do. Amen.