The Beauty of the Christian Comm<u>UNITY</u>

Studies in the First and Second Epistles to Corinthians

I Corinthians 6:1-20

We've Been Bought at A Great Price And Must Be Responsible To God.

Introduction: Paul discusses two major issues the Corinthians have adopted into their faith. These issues have caused some level of clash and the wrong idea of one's faith revealing that their faith has been influenced by what is socially acceptable in Greek culture. Paul emphasizes the importance of living up to the price paid for them. The Kingdom culture is far more important with eternal benefits.

- I. Pagan Courts Should Not Be Our Way of Resolving Conflicts (6:1-8)
 - A. Here Paul was addressing that the court system exists for matters of this life that are outside the church. (Acts 21–22) Church problems should not be taken to the Roman law court system but should be judged within the church. (Matthew 18:15–20)
 - B. Paul demands that the Corinthians start living up to their true identity in Christ, and cease identifying solely with their culture.V3
 - C. The believer's testimony must not be compromised. We must prioritize our integrity over personal gain and refrain from taking legal action against our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, regardless of the circumstances. *One must ask, what holds more significance: fighting a legal battle or showcasing to the world the true essence of forgiveness?* (Ephesians 4:32) (Colossians 3:13)
- II. We Must Remember Where We Came From (6:9-11)
 - A. Paul was telling the Corinthian church to clear its head of its old way of living. Their moral practice must reflect the "Kingdom Agenda".
 - B. Paul points out specific kinds of "sexually immoral people," adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, and thieves. (v10) Actions the Corinthians needed to see how unchristian that was. And some of them came out of that darkness. (1 Peter 2:9-11)
 - C. Meaning that they were "justified". They were brought out of a state of darkness and damnation because of Christ. (Romans 4:5-9)

III. Understand Our Body Is the Lord's (6:12-20)

- A. Paul took it upon himself to firmly correct their misguided perception that they were free to act without considering the implications of Scripture. By doing so, he aimed to help them understand the importance of *aligning their actions with the teachings of Scripture* and to encourage them to lead a more virtuous life.
- B. "He encouraged them to prioritize studying and understanding the Bible's teachings. The Bible should be the foundation for their actions, enabling them to live a more purposeful and satisfying life in complete alignment with the Kingdom's agenda. (V15-19) "Engaging in an unholy union with a prostitute is a wicked perversion of the marriage union that was established by God." (Genesis 2:24) (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- C. As the temple of the Almighty, it is vital that we shun anything that doesn't bring glory to God. Through the redeeming blood of Christ, we have been rescued. And we must stand firm in our commitment to follow His righteous path.

The price we were bought with is revealed in 1 Peter 1:18–19: knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

G.T.G

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