

Activating Our Position in Christ

1 Corinthians 6:1-20

The Priority of Our Heavenly Citizenship

So what exactly was going on in Corinth that led Paul to write this letter?

The believers in Corinth had several problems Paul wrote to address in this letter...

The apostle Paul visited Corinth on his 2nd missionary journey.

He stayed there 18 months teaching and preaching the good news of Jesus.

Corinth was a very metropolitan city.

It was the LA, New York, or Las Vegas of that day.

Immorality was rampant

In fact, the Greek verb, “korinthiazomai”, meaning, “to act like a Corinthian”, was a verb used for sexual immorality.

Jesus invaded this city with His Kingdom and the Church was established.

But a few years later, while Paul was in Ephesus, he received report of problems in the Church among the believers.

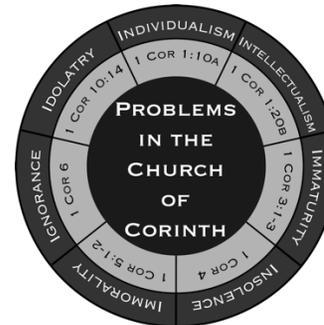
Paul wrote First Corinthians for two primary reasons...

→ To remind them WHO they are in Christ...

→ To address the problems

1 Corinthians 1:1–3 (ESV) — Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We saw where there were several problems in the church that were causing serious issues...



As we have been walking through this letter, we have seen Paul address these various problems...

Today we are in chapter 6 where Paul deals with some problems by reminding them of their CITIZENSHIP IN HEAVEN...

While Paul was called to be the Apostle to the Gentiles, he was still very much Jewish...

The Jewish community was very much a separated cultural sub-group within the Roman world...

Their adherence to the Law of God was paramount to every aspect of their everyday life.

- **Politically, Religiously, Socially, Economically, etc...**

This would be very similar to Islam’s view of the Koran and Sharia Law where it guides every aspect of their lives...

For the Jew, the laws of Rome were important, but secondary to their own Jewish Law...

At the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Church was born!

The Jewish Christians understood themselves as a wholly separated entity from both Jewish and Gentile life...

Christians are new creations in Christ with...

- ***A new Citizenship***
- ***A new Mindset***
- ***A new Lifestyle***
- ***A new Power***
- ***A new Liberty***
- ***A new Responsibility***

Citizens of God’s Kingdom are

- ***The permeating Salt***
- ***The penetrating Light***
- ***The purifying Life of God’s Kingdom!***

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) — But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

For the Jewish believer, Paul battled in breaking them free from the works of Jewish ceremonial laws into their freedom in Christ...

For the Gentile, Paul battled in breaking them free from their Greco-Roman culture into their citizenship in God’s Kingdom...

In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul deals with two particular areas where our heavenly citizenship differs vastly from any earthly citizenship...

1. Our Citizenship EMPOWERS us with great RESPONSIBILITY.

1 Corinthians 6:1–11 (ESV) — When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers! Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

➤ ***Our eternal RESPONSIBILITY must PERMEATE our present REALITY***

In all of Paul’s letters he uses a particular phrase 14 times...

*What is interesting is that he uses the phrase **FOUR** times in Romans...*

*But he uses the phrase **TEN** times in 1 Corinthians!*

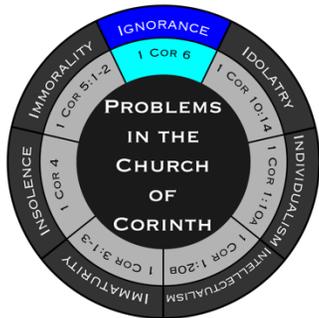
So, what is this phrase Paul uses...

“Do you not know”

In using this phrase Paul is saying two things...

1st he is saying that he has taught them these truths

2nd he is saying that they should be living by these truths



*Of the **TEN** times the phrase, “do you not know” is used in 1 Corinthians, **SIX** of those times are uses here in chapter 6!*

*These **SIX** occurrence are divided into two sets of three*

We are beginning with the first set of three...

What are the things believers need to know about the greatness of our responsibility?

➤ ***Believers will JUDGE the WORLD***

1 Corinthians 6:2 (ESV) — Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

Where does this idea come from?...

*In Daniel chapter 7, Daniel has a vision of **FOUR BEASTS**...*

But listen to what Daniel hears and sees...

1st – Daniel sees the Son of Man!

Daniel 7:13–14 (ESV) — “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

2nd – Daniel sees the war against the saints and the coming of Christ!

Daniel 7:21–22 (ESV) — As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

As we have looked at before, Paul and the early Church (including Jesus earlier) often quoted from the LXX, which was the Greek translation of the Hebrew...

Daniel 7:22 (LXX) — 22 ἕως οὗ ἦλθεν ὁ παλαιὸς τῶν ἡμερῶν καὶ τὸ κρίμα ἔδωκεν ἀγίοις ὑψίστου, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς ἐφθασεν καὶ τὴν βασιλείαν κατέσχον οἱ ἅγιοι.

ἕως τοῦ ἐλθεῖν τὸν παλαιὸν ἡμερῶν, καὶ τὴν κρίσιν ἔδωκε τοῖς ἀγίοις τοῦ ὑψίστου, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς ἐδόθη καὶ τὸ βασιλεῖον κατέσχον οἱ ἅγιοι.

So it can be translated “to the saints...”

➤ **Believers will JUDGE the ANGELS**

1 Corinthians 6:3 (ESV) — Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

3rd – Daniel sees the fourth beast and the final judgment!

Daniel 7:23–26 (ESV) — “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different

from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

4th – Listen to what Daniel finally sees!

Daniel 7:27 (ESV) — And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

Let’s look at the final “do you not know” in this section...

➤ **Unbelievers LIVE by another KINGDOM**

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (ESV) — Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1:13 (ESV) — He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

We saw in Chapter 5 that we cannot disassociate with the world, ...

However, those claiming to be believers who refuse to surrender to the Lord and walk in holiness, we must disassociate...

1 Corinthians 5:11 (ESV) — But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

“Reviler” is a slanderer

“Swindler” is a robber

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (ESV) — Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

1. Our Citizenship EMPOWERS us with great RESPONSIBILITY.

2. Our Citizenship ENDOWS us with great LIBERTY.

1 Corinthians 6:12–20 (ESV) — “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become

one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

➤ **Our kingdom LIBERTY is not a LICENSE to INDULGENCE, but a LIBERATION to PURITY!**

As with the first section, this section has THREE “do you not know” statements...

➤ **Your body is in UNION with CHRIST**

1 Corinthians 6:15 (ESV) — Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

1 Corinthians 6:17 (ESV) — But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Every believer is part of the body of Christ!

Ephesians 1:22–23 (ESV) — And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

➤ **The PURITY of your body MATTERS**

1 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV) — Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

1 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV) — Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

➤ ***Your body DOES NOT belong to YOU***

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV) — Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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1 Corinthians 6:1-20
The Priority of Our Heavenly Citizenship

1. Our Citizenship _____ us with great

_____.

➤ **Our eternal _____ must _____**
our present _____

➤ **Believers will _____ the _____**

➤ **Believers will _____ the _____**

➤ **Unbelievers _____ by another _____**

2. Our Citizenship _____ us with great

_____.

➤ **Our kingdom _____ is not a _____ to**
_____, but a _____ to _____!

➤ **Your body is in _____ with _____**

➤ **The _____ of your body _____**

➤ **Your body _____ belong to _____**