

# The Wreckage and the Fire - Revival in a Corrupt City

## Don't You Know

*Your Body Is Not Your Own*

**1 Corinthians 6:1–3 (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?*

**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.*

### Introduction

Before I get started today, I want you to write down three words: **Conflict, Compromise and Calling**

Paul has not slowed down. He has addressed factions, confronted arrogance, named silence over unrepentant sin. Now he turns to two more fractures — one playing out

in **the courtrooms** of Corinth, one playing out in **the bedrooms**.

**Six times in twenty verses he asks the same question:**

**"Do you not know?"** That is not rhetorical.

- **Paul the apostle was watching people live beneath their own inheritance.**
- **The problem in Corinth was never ignorance. It was the gap between what they knew in their heads and what they lived from in their daily lives.**

**KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT TRANSFORMATION IS A VERY DANGEROUS CONDITION IN THE CHURCH.**

Three movements come from this chapter — and each one names a problem while pointing toward its solution.

- The conflict that was betraying their calling.
- The compromise that was cheapening the cross.
- The calling that changes everything.

## **1. *The Conflict That Betrayed the Calling***

**1 Corinthians 6:1–6 (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? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!***

- Corinthian believers were taking disputes against other believers before pagan Roman courts. On the surface that looks procedural. Paul treats it as a theological catastrophe.
- The word behind "dare" in verse one is **tolmao — audacity, the presumption of something that ought to be unthinkable.**
- Paul is not calling this a mistake. He is calling it an outrage.
- **His argument is this: the church is destined to judge the world and angels at the end of the age. If that is true, the inability to settle a property dispute among brothers is not just embarrassing. It is a denial of identity.**

**You cannot claim an eternal authority in the age to come while refusing to exercise a present-day wisdom in the age you are living in right now.**

**The church cannot call the world to reconciliation if it refuses to practice within its own walls.**

- **The issue runs deeper than jurisdiction. The moment two believers drag each other before a pagan judge, they broadcast to the watching city that the gospel of Jesus Christ cannot produce a community wise enough to govern itself.**

**You have made the church a spectacle in the very city you were called to transform.**

- Having a dispute is not the sin.
- **BUT: Exporting that dispute to those who do not know Jesus, as though the church has nothing to offer, is a theological statement — and it is a false one.**

**In verse seven Paul drops a word they were not ready to hear.** He says that even having the lawsuit is already a **hettema — a loss, a deficiency** (NKJV says “Utter Failure”) **The real forfeit happened before any verdict was read.**

**THE CHURCH THAT WINS ITS CASE BUT FRACTURES ITS COMMUNITY HAS ALREADY ALWAYS LOSES WHAT MATTERES MOST.**

**Stop fighting over what you own. Start protecting what you are.**

**The Solution — The Wisdom of the Spirit Is Already in the Room**

- Paul does not just name the problem. In verse five he asks: **"Is there no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers?"**
- The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is fully capable of **giving wisdom for the conflicts of this life.**

**Build a culture where grievances between members are first brought to a trusted voice inside the family of faith before they ever reach an outside court.**

**When it comes to conflict remember the goal: never to win, always to restore.**

**Jonathan Edwards — Charity and Its Fruits, 1738**

*The spirit of litigation among professors of the gospel is a sign that love has grown cold. For love does not insist on its own rights, does not seek its own advantage, and does not treat the ruin of a brother as acceptable collateral damage in the pursuit of personal vindication.*

**IMPORTANT:** *"My brother is not my opponent. My brother is my assignment."*

**Paul does not stay in the courtroom. The public conflict is serious — but the private compromise is devastating, because it reaches into the body itself.**

## 2. ***The Compromise That Cheapened the Cross***

**1 Corinthians 6:12–14 (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. 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.*

- **The phrases Paul keeps quoting — "all things are lawful for me" — were not his. They were Corinthian slogans.**
- Someone had taken the truth of Christian freedom and bent it into a justification for moral license.

**There is a version of grace-talk that sounds deeply theological but produces deeply carnal living. It uses the blood of Jesus as a reason to continue in what the blood of Jesus purchased us out of.**

**Grace is not a roof over your sin. Grace is a cross that called you out of it.**

- Some in Corinth believed what happened with the body was spiritually irrelevant.
- The body was temporary. Only the spirit mattered.

- Paul destroys that argument with the resurrection.

Verse fourteen: **"God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."**

- Not our spirits.
- Not our intellects.
- The whole person.

**The body is going to be raised from the dead. What you do with it now is not morally neutral — it is eschatologically significant.**

**The empty tomb is God's most dramatic declaration that the body matters. You cannot hollow out what resurrection has already made holy.**

Then verse fifteen: **"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?"**

- **Mele** — limbs, organically joined to a living body. Not loosely affiliated. Not administratively connected. Organically united to Christ himself.

**YOU ARE NOT BORROWING CHRIST'S NAME WHILE LIVING YOUR OWN WAY. YOU ARE CARRYING HIS PRESENCE IN YOUR BODY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY.**

- Sexual purity is not a preference for people uncomfortable with their humanity.
- **BUT: Sexual purity is the natural response of someone who has grasped that their body is organically joined to the One who bled for them.**

## The Solution — Flee, Fill, and Fix Your Gaze

- Paul's answer to sexual temptation in verse eighteen is one word:
- ***pheugo*** — flee. Run. Do not negotiate. Do not linger at the edge.
  - This is the only sin in Paul's letters that gets this specific command, because this is the only sin Paul says is committed against the body itself.
  - You cannot run from something without running toward something.
  - **Paul gives the destination in verse twenty: glorify God in your body.**

**The solution to the pull of immorality is not willpower — it is worship. A life so saturated with the presence of the One inside you that there is no vacancy for what used to dominate you.**

- *Joseph didn't overcome Potiphar's wife with discipline. He overcame her with theology.*
- *His gaze was fixed on Someone higher than his temptation — and that is the solution that holds.*
- Establish clear boundaries. **You do not place the holy of holies in a neighborhood that will defile it.**
- **Build covenant-based accountability** — trusted people authorized to speak truth into your life.
- **Renew your identity daily.** The war against immorality is first a war over identity. The person who knows they are a temple does not live like a landfill.

### **Augustine of Hippo — Confessions, Book X**

*Our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee. The soul that has tasted the sweetness of God does not abandon it for lesser pleasures without a fight — and that very restlessness becomes the instrument of holiness, driving the believer back to the One who alone satisfies what no creature can fill.*

**Both fractures — the COURTROOM and the BEDROOM — have the same root. Both require the same cure. And Paul saves that cure for the end.**

### 3. *The Calling That Changes Everything*

#### 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.*

**After all the confrontation and correction, Paul does not end with a command. He ends with a revelation. He does not say you should treat your body as a temple. He says your body is a temple. The indicative always precedes the imperative.**

- The word is ***naos*** — not the outer courts, not the surrounding precincts. **The inner sanctuary.** The holy of holies. The precise location of the manifest presence of God.

***Priests prepared for weeks before approaching what now lives inside you permanently. Read that again slowly.***

- **The high priest entered the holy of holies once a year, with blood, with trembling.**
- **Paul is telling former pagans from the streets of Corinth that the presence which required that**

much reverence now dwells in them. Permanently.  
Without barrier. Without a curtain.

**THE CURTAIN TORN AT CALVARY WAS NOT TORN SO  
THE PRESENCE WOULD LEAVE THE TEMPLE. IT WAS  
TORN SO THE PRESENCE COULD MOVE INTO YOU.**

- Then four words that tie every verse together: "You are not your own." Followed by: "You were bought with a price."
- The word is **agorazo** — the language of the marketplace.
- Full price paid. You were owned by sin, bound to things that were killing you, and Christ walked into that market and paid a price that sin could never match and death could never outbid.

**God did not buy you to control you. God bought you to restore you to who you were before sin sold you.**

**YOU ARE NOT OWNED BY YOUR SIN. YOU ARE NOT OWNED BY YOUR PAST. YOU HAVE BEEN BOUGHT — AND THE ONE WHO BOUGHT YOU IS THE ONE WHO MADE YOU.**

- The final command is not a burden. It is an invitation.
- **"Glorify God in your body."**

- The word is **doxazo** — to make heavy with honor, to cause something to radiate with the weight of its true nature.
- Let what lives inside you be visible on the outside of you.

***You are the address where the Spirit of God has taken up permanent residence.***

### **The Solution — Live from Who You Already Are**

- The solution to everything in this chapter is not more discipline or stricter rules. It is revelation.
- The moment a person stops reading these words as instructions imposed from the outside and starts receiving them as identity declared from the inside.
- When you walk into a room, the Spirit of the living God walks in with you. That changes how you carry yourself.
- When temptation knocks, the One who overcame every temptation already lives inside the body being targeted. You are not fighting alone.
- When conflict rises with a brother, you are meeting another temple of the Holy Spirit. That changes how you fight.

**GLORIFYING GOD IN YOUR BODY IS NOT A BURDEN LAID ON YOU. IT IS A PERMISSION GIVEN TO YOU — PERMISSION TO CARRY HIS PRESENCE EVERYWHERE YOU GO.**

**A.W. Tozer — The Pursuit of God, 1948**

*The man who has God for his treasure has all things in one. Having the One, he is free from the compulsive need to pursue every lesser thing the world dangles before him.*

**Conclusion - "Do you not know?"** Six times in twenty verses. **It is still the question hanging in the air of every room where the church gathers today.**

- They were suing each other because they had forgotten their authority.
- They were defiling their bodies because they had forgotten their identity.

**The whole of chapter six is God saying through an apostle: stop living beneath what I purchased for you.**

**The most revolutionary thing a believer can do is live like they actually believe what the Bible says about who they are.**

Every decision about your body is a theological statement. It either confirms the truth of who you are in Christ or contradicts it.