

## 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8 Immorality In The Church

Chapters 5 and 6 deal with three specific problems that are related to the Corinthian's wrong thinking and wrong attitudes already discussed in the first four chapters. Chapter 5 addresses the problem of immorality, specifically incest, and the proper response of the church to the situation. 6:1-8 deals with litigation among believers, and 6:9-20 returns to the issue of immorality in the form of prostitution.

### Verse 9

Paul had written a previous letter (that no longer exists) instructing the Corinthians not to associate with immoral (*porneia*) people.

### Verse 10

*The immoral people of this world* – Paul was not speaking of our relationships with unbelievers. To shut ourselves off from unbelievers, who often exhibit the sins mentioned, would mean that we would have to live in isolation. In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus says that we are to be *salt* and *light* to the world. In Luke 5:30 the Pharisees grumbled because Jesus chose to eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners.

### Verse 11

Paul now clarifies that he meant the Corinthian believers should not associate with such a person if they professed to be a believer.

*So-called brother* – This Greek phrase literally means “*one who bears the name brother*”. The KJV translation, “*any man that is called a brother*” is better than the NASV translation, “*any so-called brother*” which implies that the man is not saved. Paul is not making a point about whether or not the man is a true believer. Verses 12 and 13 would argue that he assumes that this man is a believer. His point is that those within the church, those who bear the name brother, are the ones that we have fellowship with. These are the ones we have to choose to not associate with in the case of blatant, un-confessed sin.

### Verse 12

Paul's authority did not extend to judging and prescribing discipline on unbelievers for their sins. The ministry of believers judging others takes place only within the church.

### Verse 13

*God judges* – Judging and disciplining unbelievers is the Lord's work.

*Remove the wicked man* – This man was to be excluded from the fellowship of the church. Although not stated here, church discipline always has the goal of restoration of the offender to fellowship with God and His people (see 2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

## Chapter 6:1-8 Lawsuits Among Believers

### Verse 1

*Neighbor* – In context probably refers to a fellow believer.  
*The saints* - Paul will go on to make the point that believers should have the wisdom to judge one another.

### Verses 2-3

*Do you not know* – This phrase appears six times in this chapter and in each case introduces a subject that the Corinthians should have known because of previous teaching.

*The saints will judge the world* – In the future when Jesus sets up His Kingdom, the saints will be delegated the authority to judge unbelievers (Daniel 7:18, 22, 27) and believers (Matthew 19:28).

*You shall judge angels* – See Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4-9.

### Verses 4-6

By going to secular courts to settle their problems they were saying that there was no one in the church wise enough to settle their disputes.

### Verses 7-8

*It is already a defeat for you* – To sue a fellow believer, a fellow member of the Body of Christ was in essence to sue yourself. The proper attitude should have been love and forgiveness and even willingness to be wronged.