

GROW
You Gotta Know to Grow!
1 Corinthians 6

What you don't know can't hurt you! Do you believe that statement? I don't. But there is another statement that is never stated that needs to be heard today: What you DO KNOW can actually HELP you to GROW! It can even save your life. So, what do YOU know? [Paul makes 6 "DO YOU NOT KNOW?" statements in this chapter.] See if YOU knew them.

The people of Corinth loved a good court case. Their "**Bema Seat**" featured some of the hottest scandals in town. The sad truth was however, that many of the cases in that court were between Christians! They were MISSING their REAL CALLING!

Know that your future heavenly DUTIES should help you settle your current earthly DISPUTES. 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 NLT

1 When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! 2 **Don't you realize** that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? 3 **Don't you realize** that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. 4 If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? 5 I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? 6 But instead, one believer sues another--right in front of unbelievers! 7 Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? 8 Instead, **you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat** even your fellow believers.

-Paul had GENUINE confidence in the PROMISES of God!

***God's People will one day serve as JUDGES.**

- We will judge the WORLD. [Jesus's statements about us REIGNING in heaven.]
- We will judge the ANGELS. [See JUDE and 2 Peter]
- Not everyone will serve at the same LEVEL as a Judge! [1 Corinthians 3]

***God's People have a perfect opportunity to PRACTICE LAW in the church!**

*This not about CRIMINAL offenses, but about CIVIL disputes.

-First, we WILL have disputes with one another! [**"When you have a dispute . . ."**]

*This is not about civil disputes between believers and unbelievers.

-Second, we should NOT go to SECULAR courts to settle family arguments.

***Paul says this to SHAME them! ["Look at yourself!"]**

*Our ETERNAL perspective more than qualifies us for TEMPORAL disputes!

-We have WISE people within our churches than can serve as ARBITERS.

*Secular courts most often have judges without eternal values!

***God's people should be more concerned about CAUSING SHAME than about SUFFERING INJUSTICE!**

- We bring ridicule and scorn on the church when we BICKER publicly!
 - *Do your POSSESSIONS override your POSITION as a family member?
 - *Do you CARE how your insistence on your RIGHTS affects your witness?
- Public lawsuits between believers are a DEFEAT from the start!
 - *We are often losing battles that we did not even know we needed to fight!
 - *Are you WILLING to allow godly members to help you settle arguments?
 - [Arbitration cases at CHC.] [Making this a healthy practice before court]**
 - *Are you WILLING to TAKE A HIT to protect the name and family of Christ?
 - [My Dad: Being cheated out of money by church members]**
- We can TRUST GOD to bring us ULTIMATE JUSTICE.
 - *And we can trust his to bring us adequate provision until then!

YET, many in Corinth were guilty of WRONGDOING to their brothers in Christ! So . . .

Know that a LAWLESS LIFESTYLE signals a DARK DESTINY. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 NLT

9 **Don't you realize** that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people-- none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11 **Some of you WERE once like that.** But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

***The PRACTICE of wickedness is a SIGN of lost ness!**

- *"Do Wrong = Practice unrighteousness, unjust
 - *Will not inherit the Kingdom – **Don't think you are getting away w/ sin!**
- We must not BE deceived or DECEIVE OURSELVES about this!
 - *Deceived = Lead away from VIRTUE; Mislead from the truth into error!

"You will watch a generation of Christians -- OF CHRISTIANS -- set the Bible aside in an attempt to become more like Jesus. And stunningly it will sound completely plausible. This will be perhaps the cleverest of all the devil's schemes in your generation. Sacrifice TRUTH for LOVE's sake. And you will rise or fall based upon whether you will sacrifice one for the other. **Will you have the courage to live in the tension of both TRUTH and LOVE?"** -Beth Moore

***Paul gives a PARTIAL LIST of the PRIMARY SINS in Corinth:**

- SEX, MONEY, POWER (Sound familiar?)
 - *SEXUALLY IMMORAL – Fornicator, One who indulges in unlawful sex

- *IDOLATOR – One who participates in false worship
- *ADULTERER – One who has unlawful sex with another's spouse
- *PROSTITUTE – One who submits his body to unnatural lewdness
- *PRACTICING HOMOSEXUAL – One who lies with a male as if a female
- *THIEF – A Pilferer (Klepto), an Embezzler
- *COVETER – One eager to have what others possess, one greedy for gain
- *DRUNKARD – One who is (habitually) intoxicated
- *REVILER – Slanderer, Verbal Accuser, Mocker
- *SWINDLER – Robber, One who gains by extortion, Ravenous one

14 of the first 15 Roman Emperors were either homosexual or bisexual.
 NERO actually MARRIED two "boy paramours;" one as a husband, one as a wife.

***Paul reminds them of their GRACE-COVERED PAST! [Vs. 11 - Best verse in the passage!]**

*The glory of WERE! **[I was never taught this verse growing up!]**

- You were WASHED [Wash yourself clean; Outward sign of inward change!]
- You were SANCTIFIED [Made holy, set apart from sin and dedicated to God!]
- You were JUSTIFIED [Declared righteous and now being shown as righteous!]

*All in the AUTHORITY of Jesus's name and by the POWER of God's SPIRIT!

Know that your earthly BODY has eternal VALUE. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 NLT

12 You say, "I am allowed to do anything"--but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything. 13 You say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food." (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. 14 And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead. 15 **Don't you realize** that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! 16 And **don't you realize** that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." 17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. 18 Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 19 **Don't you realize** that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

***Paul clarified the truth that LIBERTY does not promote LICENSE!**

- They were misquoting truth that Paul taught them: **I am free to do what I want!**
- *Not everything is GOOD for you or those around you.
- *We are not to be brought into SLAVERY by anything!

***Paul described the UNITY and GLORY of the HUMAN BODY:**

- *God will NOT simply "DO AWAY" with the body!
 - The body is made BY God and is meant FOR God!
 - DUALISM: What is done in the body does not matter since it will die!
- *The PHYSICAL BODY of Jesus was RAISED from the dead
 - Our bodies will be raised in the SAME WAY and by the same power!

***Paul declared the MYSTERY of our UNION with Christ:**

- Our bodies are actually MEMBERS (Limbs/Parts) of Christ Himself!
 - *SEXUAL IMMORALITY is a VIOLATION of that union!
 - *Sexual immorality creates a BOND between you and that person
 - *Sexual Immorality subjects the BODY of CHRIST to sexual perversion!
 - There is no such thing as PRIVATE immorality or CASUAL SEX!

***Paul revealed our proper response to sexual temptation: RUN!!!!!! [JOSEPH]**
[FLEE = Seek safety by FLIGHT, Escape out of danger, Vanish!]

2 Timothy 2:22 NLT

22 Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

***Sexual sin is a sin AGAINST YOUR WHOLE BEING [Body/Soul/Spirit].**

- It creates an INTERNAL ADDICTION
 - *It SABOTAGES your brain. **[Including PORNOGRAPHY]**
- It VIOLATES any COVENANT that you make with another.
 - *This will create a FOG in your attempt to understand God's will.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7-8 NLT

3 God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. 4 Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor-- 5 not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. 7 God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. 8 Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

- *This ROBS you of INTIMACY and TRUST in your covenant marriage.
[Counsel I give to couples that are living together.]

***We are called to GLORIFY GOD with our BODY!**

- HOW are you serving God with your body these days?
- "Your body was a willing horse when it was in the service of the devil, let it not be a sluggish hack now that it draws the chariot of Christ." (Spurgeon)
- Do you remember that YOU DO NOT BELONG TO YOU? **(Vs. 19)**
- *LIVE THAT WAY!

Let's Pray.