

1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-20

who you are dictates how you live

The Word of the Cross is the Basis

...for the Church's **Unity** (chapters 1-4)

...for the Church's **Holiness** (chapters 5-7)

...for the Church's **Freedom** (chapters 8-10)

...for the Church's **Worship** (chapters 11-14)

...for the Congregation's **Hope** (chapters 15-16)

Review / Preview

How did the Corinthians demonstrate their pride when a member of their congregation was committing incest? **Proud of their sophistication to be accepting of divergent lifestyles (Corinthianization); This kind of pride persists today (PRIDE MONTH); to speak against it is to be a hater/bigot.**

How did Paul direct them to address the sin? **What were Paul's goals? To put him out of their fellowship...hand him over to Satan.**

1) For his good – that his spirit may be saved

2) For their good – a little year works through batch, be as they really are. (Pay attention to the indicative/imperative in Scripture; especially here.)

One of the Corinthians' issues in chapter 5 is a prideful infatuation with the world's **self-interested** way of doing things. This issue continues into chapter 6. The Corinthians were resorting to (or taking advantage of) civil courts to settle their internal disputes. **Virtue signaling; one-upping**

1 Corinthians 6 Outline

- 6:1-6 How dare you sue each other in secular courts! That's out of place for Christians
- 6:7-8 You have it backwards: Instead of being wronged and cheated, you are doing wrong and cheating
- 6:9-10 Wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God
- 6:11 Wrongdoers isn't what you **are**; it's what you **were**
- 6:12-14 Contrary to Corinthian slogans, the Christian's behavior and body are important. They are for the Lord.
- 6:15-17 Union with a prostitute and union with Christ are completely incompatible.
- 6:18-20 Sexual sins are sins against God's own temple.

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 **HOW DARE YOU!**

The NIV has eight question marks in the first seven verses. What is the purpose of Paul's questions?

Rhetorical ?s: 1) Demonstrate Paul's disgust (he says as much in vs 5 – I say this to shame you) 2) To get them to think about the logic of their behavior vis a vis their claims to be wise.

For what reasons should the Corinthians not sue each other in civil court?

- In 6:1-3 Christians will eventually judge the world and angels
- In 6:4-6 Christians possess wisdom to judge
- In 6:7-8 Christians ought to accept being wronged (Jesus will judge living and dead and everything will be made right in the end and forever) Eternity gives perspective.

In 6:8, indicts the Corinthians who are victimizing their brothers and sisters in court of “doing wrong.” In 6:9-11 he issues a strenuous warning for “wrongdoers”: They will not inherit the kingdom of God.

What sins stand out to you in 6:9-10? Why does he attach the caution, “Do not be deceived”?

*Sexually immoral (πόρνοι) *Idolaters (εἰδωλολάτραι) *Adulterers (μοιχοὶ) *Thieves (κλέπται) *Men who have sex with men (μαλακοὶ οὔτε ἀρσενικοῖται) *Greedy (πλεονέκται) *Drunkards (μέθυσοι) *Slanders (λοιδοροὶ) *Swindlers (ἄρπαγες)

Do not be deceived: Because there often seem to be no consequences. Some of these are celebrated by the world.

What is Paul's point in 6:11?

That's not you anymore! Remember who you are!

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

In this section Paul addresses Corinthian attempts to justify sexual immorality—specifically with prostitutes. His fundamental argument here is the same as in the previous section. Prostitution and immorality were widely accepted and normalized in Greco-Roman culture. Corinthians seemed to be arguing that they were wise and free in Christ and so what they did with their bodies didn't matter.

- In 6:12-14 he quotes their justifications and adds correctives. Not freedom to sin but rather freedom from sin. They may have been equating hunger for food with hunger for sex—sexual indulgence is as natural as lunch. Christianity honors the body. We believe in the resurrection of the body.
- In 6:15-17 he demonstrates that union with a prostitute and union with the Lord are incompatible. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! (Compare peeing into a communion cup—that's not what it's for!)
- In 6:18-20 he appeals to the value of their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit and the desecration of sexual sins. Other sins harm the body, but sexual sins involve direct abuse of the body itself. It's another level.

The Corinthians esteemed themselves to be wise; Paul's questions reveal their lack of wisdom

Maybe wealthier people who were used to using the courts to get their way were using them to get their way in church

If they are so wise, why do they need outsiders to judge their cases? The Corinthians have forgotten who they are.

- Saints, a set-apart people
- They were washed, justified

This means living out holy lives

Three reasons

Christians will eventually judge the world and angels (1-3)

Christians possess the wisdom to judge (4-6)

Christians ought to accept being wronged (7-8) (justice will prevail in the end)