

1 Corinthians 6

2-10-19

Sunday Morning

1. To younger men: please consider dropping off your families at front door & parking in ball field across Lincoln Street or Children's Center & walking
2. We need people to turn in pictures of self & family for Church directory

The Church in Corinth resided in one of the most sensual, lecherous, lewd cities in the entire world

1. Because some of them had been saved out of that lifestyle
2. Others, while not living that lifestyle, had become desensitized by the environment
 - a. Therefore the Apostle Paul was trying to help them see that they weren't a part of the world
 - i. They needed to keep their guard up against sin
3. He talked to them about being holy
 - a. Living up to what they actually were – saints

1 Corinthians 5:7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

⁸ **Therefore** let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- b. That is the meaning of **Eph.4:1**

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

- i. The Church has become desensitized to sin today

- c. Paul continues to deal w/ this **immature, carnal**, church

1 Corinthians 6:1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?
 V.2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?
 V.3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

V.4 So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?

V.5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,

V.6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

6:1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

1. "dare to go to law before the unrighteous"

a. They were suing each other in court over civil matters

b. We need to know what Paul is & isn't saying

c. Now, he is **not** saying don't go to court

d. He is saying Christians should not go to court w/ each other

e. We are to use governmental for our good

f. We have **dual citizenship**

i. We are **first** citizens of heaven

ii. We are also citizens of the world & this country

iii. Scripture is clear that we are to balance those roles

Matthew 22:17^(Herodians) "Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?"

V.19 "Show Me the coin *used* for the poll-tax." And they brought Him a denarius.

²⁰ And He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

²¹ They said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."

g. Human government was established by God (dispensation of human government)

Genesis 9:5^(talking to Noah) "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from *every* man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, **By man** his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

h. We are told in N.T. that God ordained human government

Romans 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

- i. God gave the purpose of government & we are to submit to it
- 1 Peter 2:13** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- ¹⁶ Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.
¹⁷ Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.
- a. "Act as free men"^(v.16)

- i. There are times when we can't submit

Acts 4:18 And when they^(Sanhedrin) had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;
²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

- j. WE are to use the legal system for our benefit
- k. Again, he is **not** saying that a Christian shouldn't go to court
- l. He is saying **believers** should **not** go to court against each other
- m. Paul used the court system for his benefit

Acts 25:9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me on these *charges*?"
¹⁰ But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to *the* Jews, as you also very well know.
¹¹ "If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but

if none of those things is *true* of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."

¹² Then when Festus had conferred with his council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go."

n. We are **not** always to be pacifist

Acts 16:35 (after Paul & Syllas beaten & jailed) Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men."

³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace."

³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? **No** indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out."

³⁸ The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,

³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they **kept begging** them to leave the city.

⁴⁰ They went out of the prison and entered *the house of Lydia*, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

o. We use the legal system to our benefit otherwise the lost would wreak havoc on the Church

p. **Why** should believers not take each other to court?

i. **#1** – We are going to judge the world someday

ii. Paul opens a vista of things to come that isn't often looked at **V.2**

V.2 Or **do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?

1. "do you not know that the saints will judge the world"

a. "do you not know" – is used 6 times in this chapter alone

i. It is the equivalent to – "are you ignorant of the fact?"

- b. When this world, as we know it, is over there isn't going to be a black screen that blocks out our past lives to where we can't relate to this life
 - i. The next life is a continuation of this life only w/out the old sin nature & a corruptible body
 - ii. Some folks have the idea that these 2 lives are totally isolated from each other – I can't find that in Scripture anywhere
 - iii. The life we are living is carried on into the next life
 - That is why not living for Christ now doesn't make sense
 - iv. This is why we don't take our problems to the world to solve
- c. #1. – Don't go to the world for judgment b/c you are going to judge the world in the next phase of life
 - i. We take charge of running the world

Daniel 7:21 "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them

²² until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

Revelation 2:26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

Revelation 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

- d. It doesn't make sense to let the world judge us if we are going to judge them

- 2. "are you not competent to constitute the **smallest** law courts"
 - a. #2. – We shouldn't take each other to court because:

- i. We should know the difference between what is **eternally important** & what is **temporally important**
- ii. Our testimony is eternally important
- iii. Our winning a lawsuit over money or reputation is transitory

b. In the scheme of things – ruling w/ Christ is so much more important than not allowing yourself to be cheated here

- i. We need to **think BIGGER** than that!!

c. If we are not careful we begin to think too small

- i. **Listen** to how **NIV** & **ESV** translate this verse

1 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV) Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

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?

- ii. Issues of money, property, civil matters are trivial in the light of eternity – we are to keep things in perspective

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- d. Then he gives the **third** reason we shouldn't take believers to court **V.3**

V.3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

- 1. "Do you not know that we will judge angels"

- a. **#3.** – Our interaction w/ angels

- b. Angels observe the redeemed – (we have seen this before)

- c. There are other examples of this in Scripture (as we have seen)

1 Corinthians 4:9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

1 Corinthians 11:10 Therefore the woman ought to have *a symbol of authority* on her head, because of the angels.

- d. We are going to judge the fallen angels
 - 2 Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
 - Jude 1:6** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,
- e. It is our relationship w/ Christ that puts us in a place of judgment

- 2. "How much more matters of this life"
 - a. **If** we are going to judge such weighty matters – **surely** we can judge the temporal things
 - b. The **fourth** reason is found in **V.4**

V.4 So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?

- 1. "do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church"
 - a. **#4.** – He ask why would you allow someone who can't possibly make an intelligent spiritual decision to be your judge
 - b. A secular judge has **no capacity** to make a spiritual decision

V.5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,

- a. He uses sarcasm saying isn't anyone there smart enough to make a judgment call
- b. Then he gives the 5th reason why **V.6**

V.6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

- 1. "brother goes to law with brother...before unbelievers"
 - a. **#5.** – We don't look like much of a family when we are suing each other
 - i. Not a testimony of loving each other

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

³⁵ "**By this** all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

b. The **6th** reason is in **V.7**

V.7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

V.8 On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren.

1. "Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded" (**V.7**)

a. The spiritual loss of going to court is **greater** than the physical loss of material things

b. This shows how little they valued the spiritual

c. This principle applies to every day life – wanting my way instead of deferring to another believer

i. "**My**" is more important than "**your**" to many believers & husbands & wives

Philippians 2:4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

2. "On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud" (**V.8**)

a. They were also going to court **to get even**

V.9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

V.10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

1. "the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God...fornicators...idolaters...adulterers...effeminate...homosexuals"

a. Some translations say, "those that commit those acts"

i. Example:

1 Corinthians 6:9 (NLT2) 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,

ii. That is incorrect – it says those who **are** those things will not inherit the Kingdom...

- b. Why is he bringing those people into this conversation?
- c. To show the vast difference between those **redeemed** & the **world – V.11**

V.11 Such were some of you; *but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified* in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1. “but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified”
 - a. Paul is trying to encourage them
 - b. Paul is looking at their present condition & going backwards
 - i. We know that b/c “washed” is in the **middle voice**
 - ii. They had worked on cleaning up their lives & living for Christ
 - c. God had sanctified them – passive voice – aorist tense
 - i. God had set them apart to live for Him
 - d. He had saved justified them – passive voice – aorist tense
 - i. God had saved them

1. We have been saved – we have been set apart for God
2. We are to be living holy lives
3. We live life **for one purpose**

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (NIV) yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

4. We have eternal life **now**
5. When we leave this phase of life we will continue living
6. You won't become something that you can't recognize in the next life
7. You will **still be you**, w/out an old sin nature, w/out flawed body
 - a. You will still be you – **memory intact** – **personality intact** only better

8. Don't live in such a way that you hope there will be a screen blocking this life's memories

