

## 1 Corinthians 6

### 1. How do you usually handle a dispute?

If the dispute is with someone in the church, what steps do you take to solve that dispute?

Facebook, like any other technology, has both good and bad uses. What usually happens when we take a dispute to Facebook?

How do you feel about lawsuits?

### 2. Paul now addresses disputes among believers. In verse 1 he has a stern reprimand for the church. What is that reprimand?

In his question to the church, Paul distinguishes between two justice systems: that of sinners (the world) and that of the saints. To you, what is the difference?

Why should Christians not take a dispute or legal matter before ungodly judges?

Who or what is a saint? (See Psalm 31:23, Romans 8:27, and 1 Corinthians 1:2)

What does Paul say about the saints in verse 2?

What does Paul mean that the saints will judge the world?

If the saints are going to judge the world, Paul states that we should certainly be able to judge trivial cases? Do you agree?

Why do you think we have so many disputes in the church that spill into the world?

3. Read Matthew 18:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:27-28, and 1 Corinthians 3:19. What do these verses have in common?

According to these verses, are you a saint?

In verse 4, Paul says if we have disputes among believers, who would be better qualified to judge those matters than a respected judge of the world?

Do you agree? Please explain.

If we followed Paul's advice, what difference would this make in the church?

4. According to verse 5, why is Paul so blunt with the Corinthian believers?

What is Paul's major complaint in verse 6?

According to verse 7, Paul says they are completely defeated already. Why?

How do you feel about Paul's statements?

In what way does such behavior defeat us?

Paul, through a rhetorical question, states that it would be better to suffer a wrong or to be cheated than to dishonor God and the church by making such disagreements "public."  
Do you agree? Please explain.

Can you give an example of a time when Jesus suffered a wrong to glorify His Father?

5. Paul is not saying that we will not have differences, disagreements, or even lawsuits. He does say that we should not allow unbelievers to judge those disagreements. Read Deuteronomy 17:8-13. What was the process God gave to Moses for solving such disputes?

Remember that Paul began by stating that greed was behind much of our sinful actions. How is greed often the source of disagreements and lawsuits?

How are we, as believers, to fight greed?

Read Romans 12:17-18. How do these verses relate to Paul's words to the Corinthians?

6. Why do you think Paul reminds the church that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?

What is self-righteousness? What is the danger of self-righteousness?

In verses 9-10, Paul lists some of the actions that will keep one from inheriting the kingdom of God. What are those sins?

How do you react to this list?

Do you see any actions that have been part of your life? Please explain if you wish.

This list has generated much controversy today because many believe the list is outdated and no longer applicable to our lives today. How do you feel about these claims?

Read Hebrews 13:8 and Matthew 5:17-18. What do these verses say to you?

If part of God's word changes with times and cultures, what does that mean for all of God's word?

7. In verse 11 Paul lets us know that he is not condemning anyone. What does he say about all of us in this verse?

Can you remember when you were one of those on that list? If so, what changed you?

How does the truth that we all used to part of this list keep us from judging others?

Paul lists three things that happened to us that changed us. What are those three things?

What does it mean that we were washed? Sanctified? Justified?

8. What does verse 12 mean to you?

Can you list some actions that are lawful and, therefore, permitted that are not acceptable in the kingdom of God?

Can you see examples where some believers justify their actions by saying the actions are legal when they are detrimental to our spiritual lives?

Read and discuss 1 Peter 2:16.

What does Paul mean that he will not be mastered by anything, even if it is permissible?

9. What does Paul say about the body in verse 13?

What evidence, if any, do you see where society justifying "sexual immorality" as acceptable?

Paul makes an interesting comparison between food and sexual urges. Hunger is an urge. Yet, some food is bad for us while some is good. When you get the urge to eat, how do you decide what to eat and what not to eat?

How does this analogy apply to natural sexual urges?

Paul continues to talk about our bodies as more than our bodies. What does Paul mean when he says our bodies are meant for the Lord?

In what ways are our bodies members of Christ Himself?

Read and discuss Romans 12:1-2.

Therefore, if each of our bodies are members of Christ Himself, what happens when we unite our bodies with sin?

10. Paul's focus on sexual immorality may seem prejudicial. However, Corinth contained the temple of Aphrodite, the love-goddess. Temple worship involved the use of more than 1,000 prostitutes and sex was part of the worship. Therefore, Paul was addressing a behavior that was not only normal but "spiritual" to the Corinthians. When people became followers of Jesus Christ, they tended to bring some of the old beliefs and practices with them. Do you think this tendency is still a problem for the church today? Please explain.

Do you see areas where we are allowing the ways of the world to become acceptable in the church?

Many years ago, we had a program in our schools called DARE, Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The program taught students to say, "No," to drugs. However, one study showed that the program was not truly effective because, while it was telling students to say, "No," to drugs, it was not telling them to what they should say, "Yes." How do you feel about this observation?

Have you ever felt or met anyone who felt the Bible was nothing more than a list of No's and Don'ts? If so, how would you answer those concerns?

11. Paul seemed to understand that when telling people what not to do, we should explain why and should also tell what they should do. What does Paul say happens to us in verses 15-16?

Read Romans 11:11-31. How does this passage relate to Paul's words to the Corinthians?

Paul says, "The two will become one flesh." Where does that appear in the Bible?

What is the significance of God's using this to describe marriage?

12. What does Paul tell us in verse 17?

What does it mean to you to be one with the Lord?

Look at what Jesus prayed in John 17:20-23. What does His prayer mean to you?

What does Paul tell us to do in verse 18?

The word "flee" means "to run from danger because of fear" or "to escape danger." What danger? Fear of what?

What is a sin that is outside the body?

Why is sexual immorality a sin against a person's own body?

13. Paul concludes his arguments with verses that have become most memorable because of their truth. What does Paul say to us in verse 19?

What was the purpose of a temple? Can you locate verses that tell what was the purpose of the temple?

What does it mean to you that each of us is the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Therefore, what is our main purpose?

How does this relate to Paul's exhortation against sexual immortality and sin?

The tabernacle of Moses today would cost around \$70 million to build. The temple of Solomon would cost around \$200 billion. The point being that the "house" of God came at a great price. Paul tells us, who are temples of the Holy Spirit, were also bought for a great price. What does he mean?

How would describe how much you are worth to Almighty God?

What does it mean that we are not our own?

Does this mean we are slaves and that we have no say over our lives? Please explain.

Because have been bought at a great price and made into temples of the Holy Spirit, what are we to do? (See verse 20.)

What does it mean to you to honor someone?

How can we honor God?