

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.16. Read Genesis 2.24 How does Paul show the significance of sexual encounter as a lasting commitment between people? (even if it is casual)
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.17 What is the alternative or other choice a person could make instead of sinning?
- ◆ How could understanding this help the church at Corinth as they considered suing each other in secular courts?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.18 How are they told to respond to immorality and temptations. (Note: the word sexual does not appear here as it is translated in the NIV. The word immorality is from the word that means 'to export for sale.' This carries the implication for the believer they are selling their bodies to Satan for the passing pleasures he is offering them.)
- ◆ How could it be seen as immoral for believers to sue each other in secular court?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.19-20 How does Paul want the believers to see themselves and their relationship with God?
- ◆ How would they need to live their lives differently if they were going to 'honor God with their bodies?'

1 Corinthians Study Guide available at:

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THE THIRD PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

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The translation quoted here is the New International Version (NIV)

The church at Corinth was filled with carnal people. They were professing Christ Jesus as their savior but had brought the world with them into the church. Instead of being change as believers they were changing the church so it looked exactly like the outside world.

Believers suing each other

Read 1 Corinthians 6.1-20

[1 Cor. 6:1] If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? [2] 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? [3] Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! [4] Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! [5] I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? [6] But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers!

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.6. What is the problem covered here? How could this hurt the fellowship for a local church of believers?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.1. What are the two choices the believer has in settling legal disagreements?
- ◆ How does Paul show one choice is the wrong one to be made by believers?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.2 How does this appear to be in conflict with Romans 14.10 where it says God will judge the world?

◆ **Read Ephesians 5.8-14**

[Eph. 5.8] For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light [9] (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) [10] and find out what pleases the Lord. [11] Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. [12] For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. [13] But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, [14] for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

*“Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

- ◆ Eph. 5.8 How is the life of a believer described?
- ◆ Eph. 5.11 How would this have an effect upon the non-believers in the world around them?
- ◆ Eph. 5.12-13 Why is a pure life important to the believer?

with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” [17] But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

[18] Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. [19] Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.12 What limits does Paul put on the world he lives in?
- ◆ What reason does Paul give for abstaining from something or not participating in an activity?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.13a What is the purpose of food?
- ◆ Read Proverbs 23.20-21 How can food be seen as something bad that can interfere with your relationship with God?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6. 13.b How could sexual immorality take a person away from Christ?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.14 Why does Paul point the believer back to the resurrection when trying to get them to turn away from sinful habits and lifestyles?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.14-15 How should the believer view their bodies?
- ◆ How is joining with a prostitute a negative for the relationship of the believer with Christ?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.8 How is suing each other making them look to other outside of the church?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.9-10 How does Paul show their actions will not go unnoticed by God?
- ◆ How clearly is sin defined here? How is God going to handle people who practice these sins?
- ◆ Why would it be important and encourage believers who may be wronged or cheated now, to know there is coming a true and final judgment?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.11 What is Paul trying to get the believers who are suing each other to see and understand?
- ◆ Why should this make a difference in how they treat and respond to each other?

[1 Cor. 6.12] "Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything. [13] "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. [14] By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. [15] 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! [16] Do you not know that he who unites himself

- ◆ How is this a judgment or a way the world knows how they stand with God?

Note: The word angel literally means messenger. This word can be used to mean or describe various different beings as show in this part of the study.

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.3 Who will they judge?
- ◆ What are the different possible meanings of the word angels?
 - ◇ Read Isaiah 6.2 How are angels described here? What type of beings are they?
 - ◇ Read Revelation 1.20 Who are the angels or the messengers for each church? What type of beings are they?
 - ◇ Read Matthew 11.10 The word messenger here is the word angel. Who is this messenger? What type of being is he?
 - ◇ Read Luke 1.26 Who is the angel or messenger mentioned here? What type of being is he?

Note: Messengers or angels come in two key forms. The one is spiritual the other physical or earthly and human. The one group is subject to our judgment as it causes them to examine their lives and consider eternity.

- ◆ Read 1 Timothy 1.3-4 What type of people was Timothy told to deal with when he met them?
- ◆ What type of decision would Timothy have to make in order to deal with them in this way?
- ◆ Read Titus 1.11 How should false teachers be dealt with in the church? Who needs to do this?
- ◆ Read 1 Cor. 6.3 again. Who will be judged and who will do the judging?
- ◆ Read James 3.1 According to what we have just learned, how and who should judge the teachers and preachers in the church?
- ◆ Why should this make every teacher and preacher more aware and concerned they are Biblically correct when they teach and preach?
- ◆ How are angels or messengers judged here on earth?
- ◆ How are angels or messengers judged after they die? See Romans 2.16

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.4 How should the church handle disputes between members?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 6.5-6 How does Paul try and shame them into not suing each other in secular courts?

The Foundation of God's Judgment

If you are not careful you may miss the link with the next section and lawsuits. Lawsuits were to be settled or judged by those in the church. Here Paul shows how God judges and holds to standards. This is how Paul shows them what they are supposed to do when settling disputes between members. It is not to be the one who is best liked or has the most money. It is the one who is right or just who should win the lawsuit.

^[1 Cor. 6.7] *The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?*
^[8] *Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.*

^[9] *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ^[10] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ^[11] And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

- ◆ Vs. 7 How are lawsuits between believers a defeat for them?
- ◆ Why would Paul recommend their giving in and not going to secular court? How would this benefit the message of Jesus?