

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

January 12, 2022

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

The Long Letter (First Corinthians)

Text – 1 Corinthians 6

Chapter Six – *Disputing Within the Church*

Memory Verse – 1 Corinthians 6:19

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

Introduction

Paul will now continue the theme of judgment that concluded chapter five. (See 5:12 & 13) Are we permitted to judge things within the church? Absolutely. Paul rebukes this church for not taking care of disputes within the body. They had turned to the secular court system to solve their problems.

I. Reconciliation instead of Litigation (vs. 1 - 8)

A. The Secular Court (v. 1; 6) Notice that Paul strongly rebukes this (*Dare any of you...*)

1. Unjust (v. 1) – meaning the wicked or heathen
2. Unbelievers (v. 6)

B. The Sacred Court (vs. 2 – 5) The church is to handle the disputes between its members for the following reasons:

1. Testimony - The church doesn't need to air its dirty laundry before the world.
2. Ability (Ours) – If we will someday judge the world and angels, can't we find someone to solve our own problems. God gave us a formula for handling disputes (see Matthew 18:15 -20).
3. Inability (The unjust; vs. 9 – 12)

Note – This portion of Scripture deals with disputes between people; not with judgment of sin within the body, which was covered in chapter 5.

C. The Solution (vs. 7 – 8)

1. Forget About It. (See Matthew 6:38 – 48)

2. Don't put yourself in a position to be defrauded. Don't lend; don't co-sign; don't borrow – unless you are going to be perfectly OK with the worst scenario outcome.
3. Don't take advantage of other people.

II. Justification and Sanctification (Positional) instead of Condemnation (vs. 9 – 11)

This passage almost seems unconnected to its context; but the connection comes in with the word *unrighteous* in v 9, which is the same as *unjust* in v 1. In other words God is emphasizing the lack of moral qualifications the world has in solving the churches problems.

- A. Personal Sins of the Unrighteous (v. 9)
- B. Public Sins of the Unjust (v. 10)
- C. Positional Sanctification of the Saved (v. 11 - see Romans 3:22)
 1. washed – to be perfectly cleansed; to have remitted
 2. sanctified – purified; consecrated; made holy
 3. justified – to render just or innocent

Note – Your flesh is not saved, and in your flesh *dwelleth no good thing*. (Romans 7:18) *Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption*. (1 Corinthians 15:50)

III. Separation and Sanctification (Practical) instead of Fornication (vs. 12 – 20)

- A. Your Life Should Be in Practice what it is by Position – key word *expedient* (vs. 12 – 14)
 1. Not all things benefit God's Kingdom.
 2. Not all things benefit others.
 3. Not all things benefit me.
- B. Your Life Should Be Pure from Fornication (vs. 15 – 18)
- C You are a Purchased Possession of the Lord Jesus Christ (vs. 19 & 20)
 1. Your body is God's temple not yours.
 2. Your body and your spirit are to glorify God.