

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Lessons from 1 Corinthians

1 Cor. 6

1. **“I have been wronged. I am planning to go to court to get this issue resolved.” Is that what we as Christians are to do? How are we to resolve disputes and disagreements with one another? (6:1-11)**

We are a society of litigators. One estimate says that 80% of the world's lawyers are in the United States. We spend more on lawsuits than any other country. How are Christians to act in this environment?

- a) we are **family** and should lovingly resolve our disputes with one another.
(Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-28; Romans 12:10-21)
- b) we should seek **Godly counsel**, not ungodly counsel, in resolving our disagreements
(1 Corinthians 2:14-16 - we have the mind of Christ!)
- c) we must remember our calling and our **testimony** to the world around us
 - we must be willing to sacrifice personal loss for the cause of Christ. We must lay aside selfishness.

2. **What does God say about our freedom in Christ? Am I free to do what I want to do? Is sex outside of marriage wrong? Everyone seems to say “casual sex is OK” so is it OK for me? (6:12-20)**

First century Corinthians lived in a world of sexual immorality and acceptance of that lifestyle. Pleasure seeking was the norm. Our world today is very similar. The words in 1 Corinthians are very relevant to us today.

- a) Our freedom in Christ does not give us **license to sin**. (Rom. 6-8)
 - Every **desire** does not have to be **addressed**. Just because we have a desire does not mean we have to satisfy it. We must find our satisfaction in Christ. We must remember we have an allegiance to God.
- b) Our bodies are to be used for **His glory**. (1 Cor. 3:16)
 - He is in our body and are to **reflect** Him.
 - We are **members** of the Body of Christ.
 - We **represent** Him and must focus on what is best for serving Him and proclaiming Him.

c) **Recognize** God's design for marriage and intimacy. "Oneness" is a special, unique design by God. "One flesh" is not just a physical act.

- Sex outside of marriage is **defiling** your relationship with Christ. Sex is reserved for marriage.

d) **Run** from immorality. It is harmful to your spiritual walk. Flee from it.

What does it mean to "Flee Immorality"?

- *No accommodation, no provision for the flesh (Romans 13:14)*
- *No flirting with sin — in relationships with others, in viewing things that feed fleshly thoughts, in fantasies and thought life, in appropriate dress, in discussions with others, etc.*

—> If we **FLIRT** instead of **FLEEING**, we **FALL**.

e) **Remember** your body is not yours. God is the owner and resident.

- Our allegiance is to God.
- We are to be **drastically different** than the world around us.

f) Our **victory** is in Jesus!!

Some may think, "but I have failed, and still am failing, in this area". God always offers us victory, hope, and forgiveness. Notice his comments in 6:11, at the beginning of the letter (1:4-9), and at the end of the letter in chapter 15. He gives us the power to overcome and he forgives when we come before Him in repentance.

- Go to God, confess sin, and **repent** (1 John 1:9)
- **Seek help** from a Christian friend or spouse. We need each other for accountability and support. (Gal. 6:1-2; Romans 12:10)
- Where possible, **avoid** all situations that lead you into temptation. (Rom. 13:14)
- Let Jesus **transform** your life. Get in His Word each day. Yield to His leadership. He loves you and will make you what you were designed to be. (Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)