

1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

21 Feb 2021

Chapter 5:12-6:20

Verse of the Day:

for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Co 6:20).

Review: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

What's Going On Here?

Continuing his discussion of Christian morality in an immoral society, Paul speaks first of the Corinthians' readiness to take one another to court. Instead of settling differences among themselves, brother went to [court] against brother before unbelieving judges. This, Paul contends, is inconsistent with the high status of Christians. Underlying these practices is the failure of the Corinthians to realize that as people set apart by saving faith, they can no longer make common cause with any form of pagan immorality. Proceeding to sins of the body, Paul condemns sexual promiscuity because it profanes the body, which the Holy Spirit has honored as His sanctuary. As people wholly redeemed by Christ, let Christians glorify God also in their bodies.¹

¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? *Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?*
¹³ God judges those outside. *“Purge the evil person from among you.”*

Lawsuits Against Believers

6 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? ² 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? ³ *Do you not know* that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! ⁴ So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, ⁶ but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷ To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? ⁸ But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

When judging others, where are we to begin and how are we to go about it? Finally, why are we to do it that way? (c.f. Matthew 7:1–5; 18:15–17; & Galatians 6:1–5)

v1: c.f. Romans 13:3–10 What is the purpose of government? In a perfect world, how would civil suits be determined?

v2: c.f. Matthew 19:28; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 3:21; This eschatological judgment is already underway as Christians proclaim the Gospel, which dethrones worldly wisdom and the ruler of this age.²

V5: What advantages can you see in Christians settling disputes among themselves rather than resorting to civil courts?

v7-8: In your own words, what is Paul’s solution to the problem? How do you feel about this solution?

¹ Engfehr, Lois M. (1997). *God’s Word for Today: 1 Corinthians* (p. 31). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only. © 2009 Concordia Publishing House.

² Lockwood, G. J. (2000). *1 Corinthians* (p. 188). Saint Louis: Concordia Pub. House.

⁹Or *do you not know* that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither *the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers* will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. 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.

Flee Sexual Immorality

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵*Do you not know* that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? **Never!** ¹⁶Or *do you not know* that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or *do you not know* that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

v9: “Do not be deceived” → Stop being deceived/deceiving yourselves!

v9-10: “**persistence** in such practices is rebellion against God and a rejection of God’s kingdom.”³

v11: c.f. Romans 6:20–23

In our current society, with LGBT activism practiced by some and hateful gay-bashing practiced by others, it is not easy to find the right response to homosexuals. Discuss what a godly response to homosexuals would include.

v12: c.f. 1 Corinthians 10:23–24

How does v14 illustrate God's regard for the human body?

v18: Why is sinning against your own body so dangerous?

Read LSB 611

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

³ Lockwood, G. J. (2000). [1 Corinthians](#) (p. 200). Saint Louis: Concordia Pub. House.