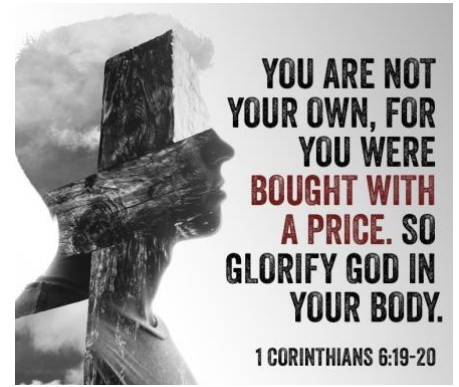


1 Corinthians, Chapter 6

Continuing his discussion on Christian morality in an immoral society, St. Paul speaks first to the Corinthians' readiness to take one another to court. Instead of settling differences among themselves, brother went to law against brother before unbelieving judges. This, St. Paul contends, is inconsistent with the Christian faith. 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, St. 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. **Read: 1 Corinthians 6.**



1. St. Paul moves on to another problem in the Corinthian congregation, that of Christians going to a pagan court to settle matters among themselves. **Read: Romans 13:3-5.** What is the primary function of government?

2. St. Paul speaks sarcastically when he suggests in 1 Cor. 6:4 that even those of “no standing” in the Church can judge in such trivial matters (that is, civil disputes among Christians).
 - a. What advantages can you see when Christians settle disputes among themselves rather than resorting to civil courts?

 - b. Why do you think this is not practiced more widely among Christians today?

3. St. Paul says that Christians can settle their own affairs, since they will one day judge the world (Matthew 19:28; Revelation 20:4a). He also says that the saints will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3). Since angels are messengers of God and are unable to sin, to whom do you think he is referring? (Revelation 12:7-9)

4. Note the kinds of “unrighteous” people St. Paul lists in 1 Cor. 6:9-10. A similar list is found in Galatians 5:19-21. Compare the two lists.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10	Galatians 5:19-20

Underline those sins you think are most prominent in the world today. Circle those sins that cause the most trouble among Christians.

5. One issue prominent today is that of homosexuality and the entire LGBTQIA2S+ movement. While we may find these sexual sins to be particularly offensive, remember that other sins – perhaps greed, drunkenness, or slander – are equally so and may be prominent in us.
 - a. Read **Romans 1:26-27** and relate it to the verses that come before it, **Romans 1:21-25**. What does St. Paul identify as the root sin for all sexual sins?
 - b. The Triune God forbids homosexual sins, together with all other sexual sins, in Leviticus 18 (:22). Leviticus 20 prescribes the death penalty for some specific sexual sins. How could it be said that this death penalty for sin is still in force? (Consider: Romans 6:23)
 - c. What good news do repentant sinners have in the following verses.
 - i. Isaiah 53:4-6
 - ii. 1 Cor. 15:3
 - iii. 2 Cor. 5:17-18
6. In the current state of this fallen world, with militant LGBTQIA2S+ activism and hateful bashing by others, it is not easy to find the right response to those in the LGBTQIA2S+ movement. What could be a Christian response to those who see nothing wrong with homosexuality and gender confusion?
7. In 1 Cor. 6:12, St. Paul may be quoting what some members of the church were saying, that “all things are lawful” in Christian freedom. But he points out that even though some things may be done, it is possible they should not be done. Why do you think St. Paul says this? (Consider also: 1 Cor. 10:23)
8. Apparently, some in Corinth had applied “all things are lawful for me” principle to sexual behavior. Their argument seems to have been that since physical food has no effect on the spiritual life, so sexual behavior of all kinds has no relationship to spiritual life. What is St. Paul saying in 1 Cor. 6:13?
9. How does 1 Cor. 6:14 illustrate God’s regard for the human body?
10. Think about what St. Paul says in 1 Cor. 6:15 about the Christian body. Our bodies are “members” (limbs or parts of the body) of Christ. He presents other reasons for fleeing from sexual immorality in 1 Cor. 6:18-20.
 - a. First, he points out that sexual sins violate our own bodies. Explain the implications of that when we remember that the Holy Spirit dwells within us.
 - b. Another consideration is that Christ redeemed (purchased) our bodies, paying a higher price (1 Peter 1:18-19). What implications does that have for the way we use our bodies?
 - c. These facts make it clear that Christians will want to honor God by the way they use their bodies. Read Romans 6:13 and list some ways you can use your body to honor God.

Closing Prayer: (from LSB 611 – Chief of Sinners Though I Be)

1 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. Amen.

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Sources: God's Word for Today: 1 Corinthians (CPH: 1997), LifeLight: 1 Corinthians (CPH: 2007), Luther's Works (CPH, Fortress), Concordia Commentary: 1 Corinthians (CPH: 2000)