1 Corinthians Series

**The Church in Corinth**

July 23, 2023

**The Change of Life Changes Life**

(1 Corinthians 6:1-11)

When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! Don’t you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can’t you decide even these little things among yourselves? Don’t you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? I am saying this to shame you. Isn’t there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers! Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers. Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

We are looking at 3 REALLY BIG issues in chapter 6…

**Issue #1--The Way We Live Together Reflects On The Way People Feel About Jesus**

(v.4-6) *…If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? I am saying this to shame you. Isn’t there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers!*

The focus here is the **RELATIONSHIPS within the church.**

**There is no easy way to settle disputes within a church. (Andrew Wilson)**

1. The disunity and pain that is possible in the church when one person takes another to court, and the other church members get drawn into taking sides, is often devastating.
2. Such litigation implies that the judgments of unbelievers are more valuable than the judgments of the church, when in reality the reverse is true.
3. The shame that comes from having unbelievers seeing all the church’s dirty laundry.
4. Suing each other shows that you care more about being vindicated in court, with the money and social reward which that brings, than you do about preserving your relationship with brothers and sisters in the faith (v 7).

The BIGGER question here is how does our behavior reflect on the witness of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ?

**Issue #2--Wrong Living Comes In Many Forms**

(v.9-11)…*Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that.*

The issue here is **PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

(1 Peter 1:6)

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by **various** trials,

“**Various**” (poikilos) means existence in various kinds or modes, diversified, manifold, variegated, many colored. James talks about this in terms of how we are tempted…

(James 1:13-15)

And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

**Issue #3--God Cares About What We Do With Our Bodies**

(v.12)…*You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything.*

The issue here is one of **FREEDOM** and **CHOICE**…

1)-**Our Bodies Are Members With Christ (v.15)**

2)- **Your Body Is The Temple Of God. (v.19)**

3)- **We Honor God With Our Bodies. (v.19-20)**

(Romans 12:1-2)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

There is an important distinction in this chapter and I don’t want you to miss it…It’s found in verse 11…

**Some of you were once like that**. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Like what?

* those who indulge in sexual sin
* who worship idols
* commit adultery
* prostitutes
* practice homosexuality
* thieves
* greedy people
* drunkards
* abusive
* cheat people

What happened?

(v.11)…**you were cleansed**; **you were made holy**; **you were made right with God**

How?

**by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ** and by the Spirit of our God.

(Romans 10:13)

…Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

God I’m a sinner

I’m sorry for my sins

I believe Jesus died for my sins

I believe Jesus will forgive me of my sins

I choose Jesus