

LESSON 10: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-20

Lawsuits and Immorality...?

1. What guidelines and requirements are given for the settlement of disputes between Christians (vv. 1-6)? Does Paul think that all Christians should get along together and not have disputes with each other? Is this a reasonable expectation?
2. Paul asks the question “Do you not know...” six times in this passage. Note of these occurrences. Did Paul think that the Corinthians really didn’t know what he was stating? What point is Paul making in verse 2-3? (See Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:28-30; and Daniel 7:22.)
3. The NIV renders verse 4 as “Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!” The ESV and NAS render it differently, as “So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?” Examine the possible meaning of each sense.
4. In verse 5, Paul writes “I write this to your shame.” But in 1 Corinthians 4:16, he’d written that “I do not write these things to shame you.” What’s different here? What point is he making, especially in light of the entire preceding discussion concerning wisdom? And what point is he making in verse 6 that applies to how we ought to act today?
5. What does Paul mean in verse 7 when he says “lawsuits with one another are a defeat for you?” (Matthew 18:21-22). What is the example that Jesus set before us? (See Matthew 5:39-40; 1 Peter 2:23.) This seems a very counterintuitive mode of living in today’s world. Is it really possible to live thus?
6. What kind of people will not inherit the kingdom of God (vv. 9-10)? Why are you warned not to be deceived about this? (See also 15:33; Galatians 6:7.) Does this mean that one who struggles with homosexuality or alcoholism cannot enter God’s Kingdom?

7. In verse 11, Paul sets forth the contrast for the condition of believers. What three benefits have we received? Explain each of these.

8. What are some of the pressures which can influence you to think that the morals of today's society are right? What should your response be to those pressures? Is there anything you are doing in your life today that would prevent you from entering the Kingdom of God?

9. Apparently the Corinthian congregation boasted to Paul that as Christian believers they had a right to do anything they pleased. In what sense are they wrong? What arguments are used to refute the position (vv. 12-17).

10. What then do the words, "All things are lawful to me" mean? As a Christian, what questions should you ask about anything you consider doing?

11. In verse 13, some Corinthians claimed that the physical acts of eating and digesting food have no bearing on one's inner spiritual life, therefore the physical act of promiscuous sexual activity also does not affect one's spiritual life. How does Paul refute this idea?

12. Contrast the two unions in vv. 16-17 and their impact on your life. Is sexual sin then the worst of all sins? How is it unique, and uniquely dangerous? How are we to live out our union with Christ?

13. What are three things Paul teaches about your body (vv. 19-20)?