



## 1 Corinthians 6

### INTRODUCTION:

- Paul is now going to deal with other practical issues that were causing problems in that congregation. In this chapter he addresses how people were *fighting for their rights* and also *the influence of their sexually permissive culture*.
  - Are those 2 problems an issue for us today and our congregations?
  - How do those 2 issues show themselves among us?

### Lawsuits Among Believers:

#### 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

**1** If any one of you has a case against another, does he dare to seek judgment before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? **2** Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to deal with insignificant lawsuits? **3** Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the matters of this life! **4** So if you have lawsuits involving matters of this life, do you appoint those people as your judges whom the church considers of no account? **5** I say this to make you feel ashamed. Is it really the case that there is not one wise man among you who would be able to decide a dispute between his brothers? **6** Instead, brother sues brother, and that in front of unbelievers! **7** The fact that you have lawsuits with one another is already a complete failure on your part. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? **8** Instead, you yourselves do the wronging and defrauding, and you do it to your brothers!

- What, would you guess, the people were launching lawsuits about?
  - What do members of our churches tend to fight about / fight over?
    - Do you think those matters ever wind up in court?
  - How would this be different from, say, suing a doctor who messed up?
  - Why was Paul so upset about this, what was it doing to their congregation and their reputation?

- How does Paul make his point that people in the church are capable of handling any disputes that arise among us?
- Verse 4 is translated differently in the NIV that reads, “*appoint as judges even men of little account in the church*” - in my opinion the Greek could be translated either way. What are the different ways those translations could be interpreted / what points are made?
  - What translation do you prefer and why?
- Verse 6 says “brother sues brother” - does that mean my Christian brother, or might this have been disputes between siblings about an inheritance or something like that?
- Does Paul think there was *ever* a legitimate reason to drag a fellow believer into court? (see verse 7)
  - Do we as Christians today think there are *ever* legitimate reasons why we might need to bring a fellow believer into court?
    - Can you think of any reasons why it might be acceptable today, when it wasn’t acceptable among believers then?
- What are some ways that *we* might be destroying our reputation with outsiders, and therefore hindering our evangelism efforts?
- Agree / Disagree: *Many common problems we face could be handled within the church vs. going for help outside the church.*
  - What are some examples of things that can (and should) be handled within the church, but often is not?
- Agree / Disagree: *The lack of Christ-like behavior in churches (including ours) is appalling.*
  - What can be done about that core problem?

## Remember who you ARE!

### 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

**9 Or 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 males who have sex with males, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor the verbally abusive, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And some of you were those types of people. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

- Why does Paul use those specific sins to describe unbelievers here?

- The Greek text actually has 2 distinct terms to describe both the active and the passive participants in the male homosexual act. Does that fact matter, and if so, then how?
- Agree / Disagree: *Lesbianism must be ok, it's not mentioned here.*
- Agree / Disagree: *The congregation there in Corinth was certainly an interesting group!*
- Pastor H says this is his favorite place to go when dealing with issues of homosexuality - can you see / understand why? Do you agree?
- Point to Baptism and Baptism's power in those verses:

## Run away from sexual immorality!

### 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**12 "All things are permitted for me"—but not all things are beneficial. "All things are permitted for me"—but I will not allow anything to control me. 13 "Foods are for the belly, and the belly is for foods, but God will do away with both of them." However, the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. 14 God raised up 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 remove the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For it says, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.**

**18 Flee from sexual immorality! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.**

- Paul heard news of some of the things they were saying in that church - what were they saying to excuse their behavior, and what was Paul's response?

- How did Paul make it clear that **sin** - was NOT included among the many Christian freedoms we enjoy?

- What did they mean (based upon the context) when they said, "food for the belly and the belly for food"?

- The NIV puts the quotes (not in the original text) after food - whereas the EHV moved it after "God will destroy them both." Which do you prefer and why?

- How was Greek gnostic / dualistic culture affecting their thinking?
  - There is nothing new under the sun, explain how this same kind of twisted logic affects people today:
  - Contrast “worldly thinking” with the Christian view on our bodies and sexuality:
- Agree / Disagree: *There’s something profound and spiritual taking place with the act of intercourse.*
  - What does becoming one flesh really mean?
- Respond to the young adult today who says, *“It’s my body and I can do whatever I want as long as I don’t hurt anyone. Mind your own business and stay out of my bedroom.”*
- Paul says that sexually immoral behavior means that a person is “sinning against his/her own body” - does this sin have different consequences, and if so, what are they?
- What was the “Price” at which we were bought?
- How do we “glorify God” with our human bodies?
  - Agree / Disagree: *It’s more difficult for people growing up in today’s world to remain sexually pure than it was in the past.*
  - Agree / Disagree: *It was better in the past when no one really talked about this topic. Today it’s everywhere and it just makes everything worse.*

#### CONCLUSION:

- Paul went from excommunication of the openly immoral brother, to lawsuits among believers, to sexually permissive attitudes and behavior among the Corinthians. What connects the dots here?
- What key lessons can we take from this chapter of Scripture?

#### CLOSING PRAYER: