

BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

Small Group Study Guide: 1 Corinthians

Week of September 15 (Week 7)

1 Corinthians 6: Lawsuit and Loose Living.



1 CORINTHIANS 6: SUMMARY

1 Corinthians 6 is a vivid reminder of the high calling of believers, in dealing with disputes wisely, living morally, and honoring God with our bodies. It challenges us to rethink our attitudes towards personal disagreements, not resorting to worldly means, but resolving them with spiritual wisdom. The chapter paints a stark contrast between the past identity of believers as sinners and their new identity in Christ. The sanctity of the body as a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit encourages us to treat our bodies with respect, fleeing sexual immorality, and living to glorify God. (Bible Hub, 1 Corinthians 6: Summary).

OBSERVING & APPLYING THE TEXT

Starting with God

1. What does 1 Cor. 6 tell us about the character and nature of God? Reflect on the following verses:
 - “the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God” (6:9, 10).
 - “you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (6:11).
 - “God will destroy both one and the other (the food and the body)” (read 6:12-13).
 - “And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power” (6:14).
 - “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?” (6:15)
 - “do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?” (6:19).
 - “So glorify God in your body” (6:20).

Reflection: What is the thrust of the character and nature of God in 1 Corinthians 6? In other words, what result is expected of believers as a result of knowing the character and nature of God as presented in 1 Corinthians 6?

Continuing the Conversation

In chapter 6, Paul's rhetorical questions, which begin with the phrase "Do you not know ...?" reveal some of the problems facing the Corinthian Christians and the modern Christians. Paul's questions remind us that believers are "in Christ." Often, Christians are prone to forget the gospel truth of being "in Christ." This forgetfulness leads to confusion as individuals, disunity in the body, and misleading the world regarding the nature of the gospel.

"In Christ" is a call to remember (6:1-8)

2. What is the issue that Paul is addressing in 1 Corinthians 6:1-8?

Reflection: "Paul starts the conversation (6:1-8) talking about the Corinthians taking brothers and sisters in Christ to court. And he is shocked because their first impulse is to look for wisdom outside of God. When we seek wisdom and justice outside of God's design, we lie to ourselves, our church, and the community about the true nature of the gospel" (Tim Armitage).

"In Christ" is a loving boundary (6:9-11)

3. In 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Paul presents the moral boundary God set that prohibits admission of certain people into his kingdom. What are the activities which exclude people from the kingdom of God?
4. What does Paul say about the Corinthian believers past and their condition in Christ in 1 Cor. 6:11?

Reflection: God creates a world with specific and purposeful boundaries that guide us to worship and flourish. Boundaries and design make sense in theory, but how about in real life?

“In Christ” pushes back on our desires (6:12-18)

5. In verse 12, Paul rehashes the Corinthians catchphrase: “All things are lawful for me” which reveals their misconception of Christian liberty. What is the issue that Paul is addressing in verses 12-18? (Note the key words: body, sexual immorality).

Reflection: In verse 13 Paul takes the Corinthians’ situation as an opportunity to lay down a principle of the gospel which is to guide us in all aspects of our existence. In all things the Christian is not to live in and for this age and its appetites as if this is all there will be. Rather, the believer is to be totally dedicated to the Lord and the age which is yet to come.

“In Christ” is where we find hope (6:19-20)

6. Paul confronts the Corinthians’ theology that is based on the slogan – “All things are lawful for me.” Their behavior is predicated by their slogan enslaving them to their immoral desires. In other words, they are “dominated” by their sinful desires. In the light of 6:12-18, what is Paul’s exhortation in verses 19 & 20?

Reflection: What are some Christian slogans that are twisted to condone sinful activities in our world today? How does 1 Cor. 6:19-20 help us test slogans like: “All things are lawful for me”?

PRAYER

PRAYER GUIDE

September 16-20, 2024

Read 1 Corinthians 6

Monday: 6:9-11 *“Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And 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.”* Reflect on your sinful past and appreciate the sanctified and justified present that is possible through Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God.

Tuesday: 6:12 *“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.”* Consider the Christian liberty and pray that we do not misuse or abuse the liberty to the detriment of ours and others spiritual growth. Just because we can doesn't mean we should.

Wednesday: 6:15 *“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?”* Meditate on the idea of our bodies as “members of Christ” and what that entails. Since we belong to Jesus – body, soul, and spirit – we have no right to give any part of our self away to “unauthorized” person.

Thursday: 6:18 *“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.”* Sexual immorality is rampant in our society and culture. The power of sexual lust should not be underestimated. Pray to God for help to flee from sexual immorality.

Friday: 6:19-20 *“Or 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, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”* Our body belong to God, so pray that God will help us to glorify Him with our thoughts, desires, actions, in our relationships, in the moments when we are with others, and when alone.