

1 Corinthians Chapter 6 NKJV Notes by Pastor Bob Caldwell

Do Not Sue The Brethren (Verses 1-11)

v.1 Dare Any of You - The thought here is to help these believers see how inconsistent and harmful it is to their walk as Christians to seek the counsel and power of the Roman court system to deal with wrongs done by fellow believers.

v.2 Judge the World - Paul seeks to awaken them to who they are and what their destiny is as Christians. Paul hopes they will see that their calling in Christ has enabled them to make true and wise judgments about even much more critical issues than the ones they are presently facing among themselves. Paul therefore reminds them that they will be ruling and reigning with Christ during Christ's thousand Year Reign on Earth which will begin at the end of the seven year tribulation (Rev. 20:1-7).

v.3 Judge Angels - As the Bride of Christ the Christian will one day be in a position of authority even over angels. That is why even now the angels are described as servants to the people of God (Hebr. 13:1-14).

v.4 Least Esteemed - When the believer considers the destiny they have as one who will exercise authority they will exercise in God's Kingdom the human courts of fallen men are seen as the least capable of bringing true justice.

v.5 To Your Shame - Paul asks them to face the conclusion that if the courts of fallen humanity are able to deal with legal conflicts better than those in the church it creates a larger problem than the legal wrongs that have been committed. This situation reveals the depths of the immaturity of this church to walk in harmony with their calling and destiny as Christians.

v.7 Accept Wrong - Paul now argues that it would be better to accept a wrong done to yourself by a believer than to dishonor Christ and His Gospel by taking a fellow believer to court before nonbelievers. Paul's greater concern here is the wrong message this action would convey before those who need to come to salvation through Christ. Their potential salvation is more important than forcing a believer to do what's right with the authority of a court system that does not regard God's Word as the ultimate authority (Prov. 20:22; Matt. 5:39-40; Rom. 12:17, 19; I Thess. 5:15).

Cheated - This points to the fact that the legal issues these believers had with one another were related to financial business dealings among themselves. It would be obvious that if there were crimes committed that revealed a threat to others then these believers would be under moral responsibility to seek the authority of the human courts so that punishment and imprisonment would protect others.

v.8 You Yourselfes - Paul now begins to point out the inconsistency of calling yourself a Christian and then sinning against others as he is going to describe in v. 9-10.

v.9 Inherit - This word is often used to convey the idea of the benefits of God's Kingdom as the result of God's work that we receive by grace. It is not something we have earned but something God has caused us to inherit or receive.

Not Be Deceived - Paul seeks here to awaken these people to any false security they may have by simply attending the services of this church but in fact giving no evidence of personal repentance and new life in Christ. He will next list examples of lifestyles that would be inconsistent with having been born again and walking in the life of the Holy Spirit.

v.9 Fornicators - This is a term for any form of sexual immorality.

Idolaters - This is a reference to false gods and those things that replace God in a person's life.

Adulterers - This refers to a sexual relationship outside of one's marriage.

Homosexuals - This word referred to those who were prostituted for the sexual pleasure by those involved in homosexual sex.

Sodomites - This word referred to those who gave themselves to sexual relationships with the same sex.

v.10 Covetous - This is the root cause of theft and many other actions that are sourced in a person's greed and desire to have what belongs to another.

Drunkards - This is the misuse and abuse of alcohol. It also has obvious application to the use today of drugs.

Revilers - This describes those who are destructive with their words.

Extortioners - This is a way to describe those who steal from others in an indirect or concealed way. Embezzling is an example as well as much of what today we call white collar crime.

Inherit - This word refers to the bestowing of another person's assets at the benefactor's death. It is used here to refer to the blessings that are the believer's portion as a result of the death of Christ on the cross.

Kingdom of God - The Kingdom of God is referred to in Scripture in three basic ways. First it is the rule of God as in Matthew 6:33. The word for kingdom here is "Bascilea" and means the rule, rank or authority of a king. In this aspect of the Kingdom we are first called upon to seek the authority or lordship of the King, Jesus Christ. The second aspect of the kingdom is seen as its realm. This is the thought behind Jesus' words where He declares in Luke 10:9 that wherever His disciples were sent, the Kingdom of God was with them. This is also seen in Jesus' statement, "If I by the finger of God cast out demons then you know the kingdom of God is among you Luke 11:20. Thirdly, the kingdom is used to refer to the results of being under the rule of the king and belonging to the realm of the kingdom. This is seen in Romans 14:17 where we are told the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

v.11 Such Were - Because a genuine follower of Jesus Christ has been born again and given a new nature, Paul can declare that the believer's relationship to their past sins is one that is connected to their past old life, but not their new life in Christ. That is why Paul could say in II Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

But - "alla" (Gk.) This is the strongest Greek adversative to forcefully contrast the old life and new life in Christ.

Washed - This refers to the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit that purifies a person from their past sins (Titus 3:5).

Sanctified - This is a word for being set apart. Here it is seen as God's act in conversion that sets us apart for Him and no longer for the world, the devil or our old sinful nature.

Justified - This is a term to convey the fact of the believer's new standing before God as guiltless for our sin (Rom. 5:1).

In The Name - This shows that this new life and standing are the result of the nature and authority of Jesus.

By The Spirit - This points out that the work Jesus did for us as described in this verse is applied to the believer by the Holy Spirit.

v.12 All Things Are Lawful - This statement seems to have been the Corinthians' justification for the sexual sin they were condoning. Paul picks up this and puts it in its proper light by showing here that since sin is a source of bondage there can be no justification for doing anything that leads to sin.

Under the Power - Deliverance from sin is at the core of the message Paul preached so it would be entirely inconsistent to become in bondage to the things Christ died to set us free from.

v.13 Stomach For Foods - It seems this was another argument used to justify sexual immorality. They reasoned that just as eating was a biological function that had no relevance to one's eternal state, likewise sexuality was a purely biological act that had no moral or eternal implications.

For The Lord - Paul counters this argument by pointing out that the believer's body was not just a biological structure that was no different than trees, dogs or insects. Paul declares that the human body was a tool of God.

v.14 Raise Us Up - Paul further argues that the body does in fact have an eternal dimension because it will be resurrected by God just as the body of Christ was.

v.15 Members of Christ - The scriptures teach that the believer is to see himself as having a relationship to Jesus just as one part of a body has a connected relationship to the entire body (Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:5; I Cor. 12:12-27).

Members of a Harlot - Paul now applies the truth of being literally joined to Christ. He asks a question that even the most self-deceived would have to answer in a way as to show the complete spiritual insanity to take Christ into a relationship of sexual impurity.

v.16 Become One Flesh - The scriptures place sexuality as a supreme physical expression of relational oneness. That is why it is to be reserved for the development of the oneness that God has ordained to be unique in a marriage bond. Here Paul uses Genesis 2:24 as his proof text.

v.17 Joined To The Lord - The understanding of union of the life of the believer with Jesus is seen here to have been extremely deficient in these believers. Therefore Paul reminds them of this vital union of oneness we have as taught by Jesus Himself in John 14:18-23; 15:4,7; 17:20-23.

v.18 Flee Sexual Immorality - The wisdom here is that because of the strong sex drive given by God to make marriage a rich union it is not advisable to simply try and resist the sinful opportunities for sexual fulfillment but to flee from them. This means to make every effort to withdraw from situations that may cause a person to fall into sexual sin.

Against His Own Body - Paul contrasts those sins that are not sexual as different in that sex is the only act that is so uniquely intimate, by literally bringing two human bodies into physical oneness. Therefore he points toward the unique sin against oneself you are committing because it will bring with it deep and personal ramifications unique to sexual sin.

v.19 Temple of the Holy Spirit - This refers to the fact that we are indwelt by God through the action of the Holy Spirit at our conversion, just as God in the O.T. era dwelt in a manifested way in the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem. This reinforces Paul's argument not to disregard what you do with your body because God dwells within your spirit which resides in your body.

Bought at a Price - The believer is redeemed from the death penalty for sin by the death Jesus on the cross for our sins. Thus Paul concludes in verse 19 that we do not belong to ourselves but to Jesus since he paid our debt for sin. Therefore He has every right to determine what we do with our lives, including our physical bodies.

Glorify God - The purpose of the believer is no longer to live in self-indulgent pleasures but instead to reveal God's glorious perfections in how we live both in the body as well as the spirit.