

1 Corinthians 6

In Chapter 1 Paul expresses his gratitude to those who make up the church at Corinth(v.1-9). He has heard of the work God is doing in their lives and connects with them as family; brothers and sisters under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Under His lordship the family of God is to be different than the world.

As we have seen in previous chapters the church at Corinth had been drawn into carnality or worldliness. The issue in chapter 6 is that the “family” was going to those who were opposed to the Father in order to resolve “family matters”. This input from the world had influenced how the church set its standards; what was good for the world had become good for the church.

Today let’s concentrate our discussions on 3 key verses within this chapter that will help us to see the core of what God is telling the church in Corinth as well as this church here today.

1 Corinthians 6:11. In verse 11 Paul speaks, to those who would listen, about their present condition. He speaks by mentioning that they were of the world(v.9,10) but have been changed(v.11). They were justified, sanctified and made clean, he is reminding them that they have been changed *in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

DISCUSSION: All of us are influenced by our old nature. As we set out on this spiritual journey we often hold to those old standards and ideas. What are some of the ways of the “old nature” that infiltrate and influence you currently?

What is the significance of having been:

Washed- _____

Sanctified- _____

Justified- _____

These 3 things have been done. And there is an ongoing work, an increase in understanding each of these areas as we follow Christ on this journey.

In light of the fact that we are *a new creation in Christ; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new*(2Co.5:17) let us consider our second key verse; **1 Corinthians 6:12.**

1 Corinthians 6:12. What things are *lawful/permissible*? What things are *helpful/profitable*?

What are some “lawful” activities in our culture that are not beneficial/profitable? How do these things control people(*brought under the power of*)? _____

Why is v12 a key principle for every area of our lives?

In the verses to follow Paul identifies two of the strongest urges within the human body; desire for food and sexual drive. How does verse 12 lay the foundation for interpreting verses 13-19? (Remember he is not talking about those outside the church but those within.)

1 Corinthians 6:20 I personally believe that this, along with verse 19, are two of the most liberating verses in this letter. If we remember that we are not our own then we will have fewer decisions to make. Should I pour, smoke, or inject vile substances into the house of the Holy Spirit? Should I pollute the house of the Holy Spirit with pornography, with profanity, with worldly philosophy?

Our bodies belong to God, *therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.* How do we glorify God in body and spirit?

I pray that this study has been an encouragement for each of us to seek God with a fresh and determined passion and that we would desire in our lives what Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:17-19;

“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints; and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power”