

Church Gone Wild: Week 6
Shame & Sexuality

1 Corinthians 6
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1 Corinthians 6:1 "Grievance" means legal case.

1 Corinthians 6:2 "Saints will judge the world" is never discussed anywhere else in the Bible.

The case was trivial. V.7 uses the word "defrauded" meaning "cheated or robbed." It would be like two people arguing over a stolen Bible.

1 Corinthians 6:3 Judging angels is also not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 6:4 Trivial cases between Christians shouldn't go before a secular court. Some cases should.

1 Corinthians 6:5-6 Paul writes in 4:14, "I am not saying this to shame you," but now he *is* trying to shame them. They think they are so wise, but why can't they solve this dispute?

1 Corinthians 6:7-8 Both sides are wrong.
The Plaintiff in the case should not have pressed charges.
The Defendant should not have done the deed to begin with.

When Jesus says, "turn the other cheek, give up your shirt and walk the extra mile," everything in you screams: "BUT I HAVE RIGHTS!"
You have the right to turn the other cheek, give up your shirt and walk the extra mile.

*What is the motivation behind your desire to retaliate?
Are you motivated by love or by vengeance?
Why not rather suffering the wrong doing of another?*

Suffering wrong does NOT mean that
... you should remain silent.
... you continually put yourself in a position for continual abuse.
... you should remain broken.
... you shouldn't contact authorities if the wrongdoing is in violation of the law.

1 Corinthians 6:9 If you choose not to retaliate, you don't need to worry. Those who do wrong, the unrighteous, those who do not do things God's way, will not inherit the kingdom of God.

To inherit the kingdom of heaven DOES NOT mean go to heaven when you die. To inherit the kingdom means to receive the full reign of God in your life when Jesus returns. Those who don't inherit the kingdom of God, inherit the judgment of God.

He mentions ten kinds of immoral people:

- 1) *Sexually immoral*: those who practice any sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage
- 2) *Idolaters*: those who worship something in place of the Someone
- 3) *Adulterers*: married people who have sex with someone who is not their spouse
- 4&5) *Practicing homosexuals*: men who engage in homosexual activity
- 6) *Thieves*: those who take the personal property of another without permission
- 7) *Greedy*: those who so desire to gain more that they will do anything to obtain more
- 8) *Drunkards*: those who constantly become intoxicated with alcohol
- 9) *Revilers*: those who are verbally abusive
- 10) *Swindlers*: those who cheat, rob or extort for financial gain

Homosexuality & the Scripture

The phrase "men who practice homosexuality" in 1 Corinthians 6:9 (ESV) are the two Greek words for the passive and active partners in a homosexual relationship.

The Greeks and Romans accepted homosexual behavior among men, typically between adult men and young boys. Homosexuality among women was rare. The acceptance of male homosexual relationships is evident in Greek and Roman art and literature.

They didn't use the modern terms homosexual/heterosexual. They would rather use terms to describe the passive and active partners in a homosexual relationship. Male passivity expressed a loss of masculinity as the passive partner took on the role of the female. Often these passive males would prostitute themselves.

Certain Christians interpret this passage to indicate that God condemns only pedophilia or prostitution. However, the word for the active partner is the only Greek word that would have been used to describe a male homosexuality. God is clearly condemning homosexual activity.

The OT law (Lev 18:22) prohibits Jews from homosexual relationships. The New Testament in three places describes homosexuality as outside of God's plan (Rom. 1:27, 1 Cor. 6:9, and 1 Tim. 1:9-10). The Bible describes homosexuality using words like "abomination," "unrighteous," "dishonorable passion" and "impurity."

There is no indication that Scripture ever endorses homosexual behavior. For those who find an endorsement of homosexual behavior in the Bible are normally guilty of "reading it into the text" (e.g. David & Jonathan - 2 Sam. 1:26).

1 Corinthians 6:11 We don't need to judge those who do evil towards us, because they will not inherit the Kingdom of God and because we used to be one of them!

God has saved you. God the Father has rescued you in the name of (and through the activity of) Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

How does God rescue us from sin by the Spirit?

Washing: cleansing us from the filth of sin

Sanctifying: taking us away from sin by breaking the power of sin

Justifying: legally wiping our record of wrong and setting things right with God

1 Corinthians 6:12 "All things are lawful for me" is in quotations because this is a slogan used by the Corinthians. There is a silent "you say" before the phrase. Paul disagrees with the statement in part. Certainly some things are not lawful. Paul just mentioned ten lifestyles that are not lawful.

There is some freedom to make ethical choices on issues not specifically addressed in Scripture (e.g. drinking alcohol, eating meat, entertainment choices, etc.).

The questions to ask in making such a choice are:

Is this helpful or destructive?

Am I becoming enslaved by this thing?

1 Corinthians 6:13-14 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" is another slogan, but this is one that Paul agrees with. However he doesn't want them to use the slogan to justify sexual immorality. *Sex is NOT merely for the body and the body is NOT merely for sex.* The body is ultimately for the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:15 Apparently, some of the church members were having sex with prostitutes and no one in the church objected. They thought, "Having sex is just like eating food. There are no moral constraints, only preferences." Nothing could be further from the truth.

1 Corinthians 6:16-17

Sex is more than a physical encounter.

Sex is a spiritual experience.

Sex brings two people together in a spiritual connection—one flesh.

This is why breakups with sexual partners cause heartache; it is the tearing of one flesh.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Translation: RUN! Example: Joseph & Potiphar's wife (Gen. 39:12)

Sexual sins are worse than others, because of the effects.

It is sin against God, sin against your body which belongs to God, sin against another person by bringing them into your sin.

1 Corinthians 6:19 In 2:1, Paul says y'all are the temple. Here he says your individual body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, a temple bought and paid for by Jesus. Your body doesn't belong to you anymore, it belongs to Jesus, because you are now one with him.



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