

# “Lawsuits and Prostitutes”

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 6

1Cr 6:1 1) “No Account” Judges vs 1-4

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, **dare** to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

- **“Dare”** - Paul is using a strong word here that shows disbelief that someone could think this is acceptable. Paul is appalled.
- He is appalled that two Christians would:
  1. Have an issue with another brother in the Lord. (see verses 6-7)
  2. More appalling is that to settle the issue they feel the need to go the secular court. In this culture the magistrates sat in a public forum (in the center of the market place) to hear the cases brought before them. Any case became public knowledge immediately.
- Paul is not using the term unrighteous for the secular judges meaning that they were unfair and didn't perform their jobs properly. He used the term in the sense that they were not believers and did not desire God's will and did not desire to glorify God.

Four questions that bring to light that Christians are qualified to judge between fellow Christians.

1Cr 6:2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts?

1Cr 6:3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

- “Do you not know” - rhetorical question. Paul expected them to know these are realities.
- **First** - Saints will judge the World. Christians will execute the judgment upon the world in the future in the Millennium.

1 Corinthians 5:13-13 Paul says we do not need to judge outsiders now, “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges”

Psalms 149:5-9 We will judge the ungodly at some point “Let the godly ones exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, To execute vengeance on the nations And punishment on the peoples, To bind their kings with chains And their nobles with fetters of iron, To execute on them the judgment written; This is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!”
- **Second** - If you can judge the world, you should be able to judge between yourselves in these smaller issues.
- **Third** - Saints will judge Angels. There isn't much information on this judgment of angels. How? When? Why? Fallen Angels? Good Angels Performance? Not sure what this really means but the scripture says we will judge angels.
- **Fourth** - If these things to come are real, how much more should we be able to judge between ourselves, IN THIS LIFE.

1Cr 6:4 So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?

- Scholars debate what this verse means.
- KJV reads “If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.”
- One View = refers to the unrighteous secular judges from verse 1 are the least (no account) judging church matters
- Another View = These matters in this life can be judged by the newest Christian among you; the least among you” or those of “no account” or no experience.

-Psalm 19:7 “The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.” It seems that the simple, with the commands of the Lord can judge what is right and wrong when it comes to Pornography verses Art, or Marriage between homosexuals, and on and on.
- Paul is not saying that a Christian should not go to a secular court. Those are proper if a Christian and an unbeliever are in a dispute. Be between Christians this is a matter to be decided by those who are of the same heart and mind. To bring Glory to God.
- In Acts 22:25 & 25:10-11 Paul appealed to the Roman courts for his rights.

1Cr 6:5

## 2) Two Shameful Wrongs vs 5-11

I say *this* to your shame. *Is it so, that* there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,

1Cr 6:6

First  
Wrong

but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

- Paul says this is embarrassing that there isn't anyone wise enough among you who can judge between two fellow Christians.
- Paul fully expected the Corinthians to be able to judge civil matters between fellow Christians among themselves.
- Paul is very aware of image before the lost. And lawsuits between Christians are a hindrance to the lost to accept a life change from Jesus. Due to the appearance of no life change because of these lawsuits.

1Cr 6:7

Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

1Cr 6:8

Second  
Wrong

On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. *You do this even to your brethren.*

- Not only going to a secular court with a fellow Christian embarrassing it is UNCHRIST LIKE.
- Verse 7 - NKJV reads "Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another."
- Why? Jesus said in Matthew 5:38-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. *If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'* But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, *so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven*"
- Paul is telling the church that it would be better to be wronged or cheated than to force your rights at the expense of God's glory.
- Again, Paul isn't saying that if you have a dispute to just roll over. He is saying take it to the church. Have it settled in a godly manner and go on. Do not take it before the lost and discredit the church and people's salvation.

Just like a marriage, being right or wrong isn't the most important thing. Sometimes Peace is.

1Cr 6:9

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

1Cr 6:10

nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

- Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that *they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*"
- Ephesians 5:3-5 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, *hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God*"
- Paul is making a point here to the Corinthians. The context is lawsuits and the immediate issue is allowing yourself to be wronged.
- DO NOT BE DECIEVED - In a lawsuit sometimes there is a malicious party that deliberately wrongs another. Paul is telling the Corinthians not to be party to that. Do not maliciously wrong or defraud another. DO NOT BE DECEIVED! These do not have any inheritance in the kingdom of God. Paul is urging the Corinthians to trust God. That the ultimate judge will take care of the offender. So ultimately you can afford to be wronged.
- According to Ephesians 5 Paul doesn't want these to be named among us even once. But truly he is talking about a man who is identified by these things. He is a fornicator not that he has fornicated. He is a Drunkard not that he had a drink. If he practices these things so that others

identify him with these sins, he is unrepentant and not saved.

- **Fornicator** - one who has sex outside the designed purpose of marriage.
- **Idolater** - one who serve anything else other than God. (another god or even themselves)
- **Adulterer** - One who violates the covenant of marriage
- **Effeminate** - GK *malakoi* (male prostitute) this is the argument used by homosexuals that the bible does not condemn homosexuality that is a loving caring homosexual relationship. BUT...
- **Homosexual** - GK *arsenokoitai* (sodomy) Paul coins a phrase here that has caused controversy as to condemnation of homosexuality. Starting from the last "ai" makes this a verb; an activity. The "koit" means to lye in bed. And "arseno" male. Homosexuals defend themselves saying this term is not understood. Scholars who have broken this compound word down describes it as the male/dominate partner in a homosexual relationship.  
It is wrong to justify homosexuality as benign and acceptable to God. But it is also wrong to classify this particular sin as worse or in a special class of offense.
- **Thieves** - those who take what is not theirs
- **Covetous** - those who always want what is not theirs
- **Drunkards** - those who abuse themselves by consumption of chemicals
- **Revilers** - those who abuse others with their speech
- **Swindler** - Can be a thief but also one who deceives and manipulates to get what they want

- May be you are deceived. Are you in an adulterous relationship? Are you a drunkard? Are you a fornicator? Are you a homosexual? These are common problems in our society today. Someone told you that you were a Christian. DO NOT BE DECIEVED. You must repent of your sin.

1Cr 6:11

**Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.**

- "Such WERE" past tense. **GOD TAKES US FROM VERSE 9-10 TO VERSE 11**
- Washed, Sanctified, Justified! The power of Jesus Christ delivers us from the bondage of all these sins listed. Past tense means past. It is done Completed.
  - **Washed** - Acts 22:16 "Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." Calling on the name of Jesus washes away sin. Baptism is the outward demonstration of the inward work of this washing away.
  - **Sanctified** - GK *hagiazō* to be consecrated set apart pure Hebrews 10:10 "By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."
  - **Justified** - not just forgiven but justified JUST-AS-IF-I'D never sinned. It isn't possible by performance. Because that would be a lie in itself. Justification has to be granted by an independent authority. God justifies us as a gift.  
Romans 3:24 +28 "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus ... For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law"
- As a Christian, the power of sin is broken in your life. We are working this reality out in our lives. Some people don't know this. So they still act as they believe. They are still addicted or cannot help themselves. Well now I know, I need to repent of my sin and break my bad habits.

Review

- Concerning Disputes In the Church There Should Be:
  1. Humble Love for one another that there wouldn't be Lawsuits.
  2. But if there are there should be wise arbitrators in the church.
  3. Settlement of disputes between Christians in the church, not in secular courts.
  4. An Authority to make decisions with powers of enforcement.

-We have no authority because the church of late has weakened the law of God. Just as serpent in the garden "Hath God really said?"

-If the church has no standards or simply shifting standards how can they have any ability to decide matters. If I go before them today I lose, but tomorrow with shifting standards I may win.

1Cr 6:12

### 3) A Case for Sexual Purity vs 12-20

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

- Paul uses this phrase again in chapter 10.
- Not under the Law -
  - Galatians 5:18 "if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law"
  - Galatians 5:13 "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."
- Not All things are profitable.
  - In business I take on jobs. As I price jobs, there is built in the jobs a "profit margin". Profit margin is very important it accomplishes Business Growth, Purchase of New Technology to Improve Productivity and Quality, Repairs on Old, Salary Increases, Security, -- profit is important to business and it is also important in our spiritual live.
  - To be not profitable it is only a matter of time that if one operates his business without profit that stored resources will be used up and he will become bankrupt. It is also true in the spirit.
  - You can get away with doing things that are not profitable to you spiritually. There are resources built up. But of your Christianity is filled with unprofitable living it is a matter of time before a sense of spiritual bankruptcy will overcome you.
- Not mastered by anything.
  - Mastered, ruled, addicted,
  - Romans 6:14-15 "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!"
- This passage is in no way giving a license to ANY behavior what so ever.
- Paul's context is relationships with Prostitutes as we will see in the rest of the chapter

1Cr 6:13

Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

- Paul draws a picture that illustrates simple animal appetites (food) with the function of the body.
  - Food and the stomach were made for each other. Your stomach has an appetite. It cries out to be satisfied. It is a temporal condition.
  - Jesus spoke about food. John 4:31-32 "the disciples were urging Him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But He said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.'"
- But the Body is for the Lord. It is for His purposes. There is a resurrection! Yes of the body. It may be different but still the body is an important element for the Lord.
  - We abuse it with chemicals, waste it, mark it, and alter it. It is the Lords. Not ours to decide what to do with it.
- Our body is not to be reduced to an animal appetite of sex like our stomach's appetite. Our body will not be done away with but transformed.

1Cr 6:14

Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

1Cr 6:15

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be!

- If this body is the Lord's how could man make the body a member (joined) with a prostitute?
- Paul is confronting an acceptable custom of temple prostitution. This is powerful to consider the Christianity that Paul walked before the Greek world. Paul did not draw back from declaring that an acceptable practice in his culture is sin.
  - SEX SELLS - nearly every product in sold around the world is marketed by sex.
  - The beer commercial where the average guy orders a particular brand and the attractive girls now notice him.
  - "Go Daddy" flagrantly grabs attention by sexual content that isn't simply suggestive or innuendo. These vulgar messages have nothing to do with their product. But some would say that their campaign is effective and the proof is that I mention the company here. By the way we discussed this and this was the primary reason we

did not use "Go Daddy" for our hosting. I urge all Christians to reconsider who hosts their web site and not use those companies such as "Go Daddy" who due to greed are willing to cooperate in the moral decay of society.

- In the Greek culture there were the Epicureans. They believed pursuit of pleasure was mans purpose. The temple prostitute fulfilled this pursuit.
- Paul denounced this belief.
- Our culture today finds itself in the pursuit of pleasure so much so that our daughters feel need to dress and adorn themselves with the look of immorality.
- 1 Peter 3:2-4 Peter instructs women to win their unruly men to the Lord as the men "*as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*"

1Cr 6:16 **Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."**

- "DO YOU NOT KNOW" There is no such thing as casual sex?
- In the marriage covenant between a man and a woman is wonderfully complete when they consummate the marriage with the sexual union. They become one, not just physically but emotionally, spiritually.
- When the same sexual activity occurs outside of marriage, the same union happens.
  - It is so evident when teenagers become sexually active and the relationship dissolves. It is more than a lost relationship but a tearing of an emotional, and spiritual union that runs deep. Thus it is much more painful.

1Cr 6:17 **But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

- Our bodies were not made for this. Our bodies were made for the Lord.

1Cr 6:18 **Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.**

- Flee Immorality - Joseph in Genesis 39 ran from Potiphar's wife who wanted to have an affair with Joseph. Joseph said "How can I do this GREAT WICKEDNESS and SIN AGAINST GOD."
- Our bodies are more unique than we think.
  - 1) We are made in God's Likeness and Image
  - 2) God will raise them one day.
  - 3) Immorality is a sin against our own body.
- Sexual Immorality (which includes pornography) works against God's design for the purpose of sexual enjoyment in marriage, unity in marriage and fidelity in marriage.

1Cr 6:19 **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?**

1Cr 6:20 **For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

- In Chapter 3 the Church body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit" Here Paul brings it down to the individual level. You and Me. Each of us is the "temple of the Holy Spirit"
- In contrast to the temples of immorality. Our bodies are the temple of morality The Holy Spirit.
- Your bodies are not your own. They have been bought with a price. The Blood of Jesus. What an incredible price that was paid for your body. That is the value God put on your body.
- We no longer have the right to our bodies. They are the Lord's purchased property.
- Therefore the purpose of our bodies is to GLORIFY GOD.

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