

Conflicts and Immorality

I Cor 6: 1-20

6/17/01

Intro

- Father's Day.
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Now Paul is dealing with the problem of relationships in the church. There were people who were bringing others in the church into court to settle disputes.

Also, he takes up the matter of sexual immorality, because it was such an important issue affecting the spiritual life of the church.

This chapter is very practical in its application.

Here we learn about God's heart regarding conflicts and immorality in His church.

I. There is a place for judging one other.

Vs 1-2

A. They were commonly bringing Christian brothers to court.

-This defamed the name of Christ.

B. Shouldn't the church be competent to judge matters of this life?

Vs 4-5

- We will rule and reign with Christ in the future.

- We will judge the angels.

Illus- This doesn't mean we'll be judging our "Guardian angel."

- Should we not be able to judge in small matters?

Illus- I remember a single mother who asked the church to help her seek justice from a Christian brother. We did indeed.

Practical note: This does not mean that we cannot seek justice in court with unbelievers (Paul did so when about to be flogged.). They won't respect the church. But also, if a brother does not respect the church and will not submit to it, then there may be no recourse other than in court.

C. This is already a defeat for them.

- Because love has not won out.

D. Why not rather be wronged.

- This is a great principle for being like Christ. Grace is a powerful force.
- Isn't relationship more important than things?

Illus- I remember when I had a dispute with a fellow Christian many years ago. I felt I was being asked to do something that was not just. I appealed to them to seek for God's peace in prayer and then I would abide by their decision. God was powerful and my position prevailed by grace without dispute.

II. We should not act as we used to act when we were in the world.

Vs 9 A. Paul says, “Don’t you know the unrighteous have no place in the Kingdom of God?”

- Paul lists sexual sins.
- And then more general sins.

Vs 11 B. “And such were some of you.”

- In other words, that’s where we came from.
- Why go back there?
- We have been washed, sanctified, and justified.

C. Paul is challenging to live like Christ rather than like the world.

- When Christians live immorally, it takes away the spiritual strength of the church.

III. Glorify God in Your Body.

Vs 12

A. “I will not be mastered by anything.”

- All things are lawful; but we are no longer measured by the law.
- But not all things are profitable.

Vs 13

B. Food for the stomach and the stomach for food.

- Basically, to the Corinthians this meant that the body was meant to be satisfied.
- But Paul says, “The body is for the Lord and the Lord is for the body.”

C. Our bodies will be raised from the dead, as was the Lord’s.

- Our bodies are members of Christ.

D. Do not sin against the body.

- Flee Immorality

Illus – Joseph and Potiphar’s wife. He fled.

E. Be driven by a passion for Jesus Christ, rather than for a passion for self.

Conclusion

We have been bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in our bodies.

Romans 12: 1-2 says that we should present our bodies as a living sacrifice.