

1 Spending Time with Jesus in I Corinthians Chapter 6

Invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

1st: read I or II Corinthians (read the one you didn't read last week) all the way through, the whole book, imagining you are Paul saying this to the church in Corinth. To help you remember and ENJOY what you are reading, read out loud for at least 15 minutes each time (longer would be even better.)

2nd: read chapter 6 by itself to remember what they are about.

3rd: read chapter 6 again and write down what stands out to you.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through, answer questions as you go:

I Corinthians 6:1-11

Yuck. Conflict. But conflict will happen any time 2 or more people (even believers) are together long enough. Conflict itself doesn't have to be bad, though. In fact, God uses conflict to show us where we need to trust Him more so that we mature in Christ. Working together to find a solution can bring believers closer together – if they are humble and are listening to the Holy Spirit and valuing others above themselves. They can learn what the other person values and why. It gives us the opportunity to humbly show grace and generosity to one another.

Does it sound like this is what is going on in the church at Corinth? ____ Are they being humble, generous and full of grace toward each other? If not, how would you describe them? .

Paul is talking about “trivial cases.” What does trivial mean?

When Paul says, “I say this to shame you,” he is really getting on to them. What is the big deal about one believer taking another to court in a lawsuit? (There are so many levels of wrong...list at least 2.)

1.)

2.)

After seeing the videos about life in Corinth (from the first week of our study), do you think the judges in the courts would give a fair ruling? Would a poor person be treated the same as a rich person? A slave? A woman? A foreigner?

Who does Paul say they should go to when they need help resolving their conflicts (6:1)?

Why do you think no one from the church has volunteered to help judge these cases between believers?

Jesus died so everyone who chooses to follow Him could be filled with His Spirit and experience abundant eternal life. Because of this, Jesus is the only one worthy to sit on the judgement seat. And He will sit there when He returns. But buckle up! At that time, He will partner with us (believers) to judge angels and the world. (Whoa! We are so not worthy...only by being IN HIM are we competent for this.) For now though, Paul says that the Spirit makes us competent to judge trivial cases. So what does competent mean?

How do lawsuits show that the Corinthians have been completely (yikes!) defeated already? What have they lost?

The kingdom of God is anyplace where God reigns as sovereign – in other words, when He is the only King in a person’s life, that person is living in the kingdom of God right now. When did Jesus become King of Kings and Lord of Lords? (hint: 1:18, 22-23; 2:8) _____

When Jesus died on the cross, He actually was THE King conquering all opposition, and the kingdom of God on earth began. Those in His kingdom are called to lay down all our rights, giving them to Jesus, just as our King Jesus laid down His rights by surrendering to His Father’s will.

Have the people listed in 6:9-10 given up all their rights? _____ If not, can you see why they won’t inherit the kingdom of God?

In your portion, underline the 8th word of 6:11. This verb is in the _____ tense. This verse goes on to tell what happens when someone believes in Jesus. “But you were _____, you were _____ (set apart for Jesus like an engaged man has set himself apart for his fiancée), you were _____ in the name of the _____.” Who did all this radical transforming? It was done by the _____ of our _____.

I Corinthians 6:12-17

“I have the right to do anything,” is a Corinthian saying. How does Paul answer?

A.) But _____ everything is _____. (What does that last word mean? _____)
What is something you are free to do but that would not turn out for your good?

B.) I will not be _____ by _____

What’s something you are free to do (or will be free to do as an adult) that could control you?

Would the Corinthians think that being mastered by something would be good? (remember, they call themselves “Little Rome.”) _____

“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food and God will destroy them both,” is another Corinthian saying, kinda like “Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die,” in chapter 15. Their culture taught them that “what a person did with their body didn’t matter since it was going to die and that would be the end of their body...so since you have a stomach, eat all you can while you can enjoy it...indulge all your appetites.” Yep, they are using food and the stomach as code for sexual organs and indulging our sexual desires.

But Paul reminds them that God, who created every organ in our bodies, has a beautiful plan to partner with us to bring life through every part of our lives. He says, “The _____, however, is not meant for _____ but for the _____ and the _____ for the _____.

“I will not be mastered by anything” includes our body’s sexual desires.

What does it mean to unite with someone? To become _____ with them.

Just how united are believers to the Lord? Check it out:

v. 14 - God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will _____ also.

v. 15 - Do you not know that _____ are _____ of _____

v. 17 - Whoever is united with the _____ is _____ with _____ in _____

Whoa! By His death and resurrection, Jesus made it possible to be united with us to this extent!!! Think about it, as a believer, you have 2 people living inside your body: you and King Jesus who fills you with His life and shares His mind, wisdom, righteousness, peace...all that He is...with you – and you will experience the benefits of this if you seek Him with all your heart.

Being a “member of Christ” and “united with the Lord in spirit” means being filled with the Holy Spirit 24 / 7 / 365. There’s no saying, “Jesus, you stay over here while I go over there without you for a while to do what I want.”

Paul is going to be talking about our bodies for several chapters. He will be pointing out that what we do with our bodies in this life **really** matters!

I Corinthians 6:18-20

How are we supposed to respond to sexual immorality in v. 19? _____!

How could you flee from it today?

Sin breaks relationships. Whoever sins sexually sins against their _____ (v. 19.) In other words, it breaks the good relationship God intends for us to have with our own body (as well as with others.)

A temple of the Holy Spirit is the place God chooses to live. Even with all their mess, Paul is confident the Holy Spirit lives in the Corinthian believers. He is ready and waiting for them to be willing for Him to change their hearts. Then they will be able to glorify God in everything they do with their bodies.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ who are studying I and II Corinthians with me, God has given you the Holy Spirit to live in you. Wow!

You are not _____. (v. 19)

Why? Because you were _____ at a _____. You were a slave to sin and couldn’t free yourself. So He bought your freedom, along with all of humanity’s freedom, so we could be restored to our place in God’s family.

Who bought you? _____ What was the price? _____

Therefore, _____ with _____. (v. 20) What does “honor” mean?