



FIRST CORINTHIANS

LESSON TWO

Chapter five is the beginning of a section of 1 Corinthians that deals with several very specific and practical issues.

Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – KJV).

CHAPTER FIVE

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1- 12 _____ Check

1. (v.1) In what form of immoral behavior was someone in the Corinthian church involved? _____

2. (v.2) What was the Corinthians' response to this sin? _____

What should their response have been? _____

3. (v.3) What was Paul's reaction to this situation? _____

4. (vss. 4-5) What does Paul instruct to the believers to do about the sin of the member of the church? _____

Note: To *deliver one over to Satan* means to put him out of the church body, the local assembly, hence into Satan's sphere, for he is the god of this age. (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19)

5. (v.6) Describe the meaning of the metaphor Paul uses to describe the effects of a sinful behavior being allowed in the church. _____

6. (v.7) What Old Testament event is Christ compared to in this verse? _____

Note: The Book of Exodus describes how God sent a plague on the land of Egypt in which the firstborn son of every household would die in one night (Exodus 12:1-30). However, God instructed the Israelites to kill a lamb and place its blood on the doorposts of their homes. When the angel of death passed by that house and saw the blood on the door he would not bring death to that household. That Passover Lamb was symbolic of Jesus Christ. When we have accepted Christ as our savior then God sees the blood of the “Passover Lamb” and spiritual death will not touch us.

7. (vss.9-11) What does Paul command about associating with Christians living immoral lives? _____
_____ Does this apply to associating with unbelievers as well?

8. (vss.12-13) What is the difference between how the Christian responds to unbelievers and to believers.

CHAPTER SIX

LAWSUITS AMONG BELIEVERS

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 _____ Check

1. (v.1) What was apparently happening among the believers in the church in Corinth? _____

Note: In verses 2 and 3 Paul says that the believers will “judge the world” and again that they will “judge angels.” This is the only time in his epistles that Paul refers to either of these responsibilities. However, whatever he means by this, the point is clear that the believers should be able to settle arguments and disputes amongst themselves.

2. (v.4) What is Paul’s instructions to the believers for handling these disputes? _____

3. (vss.5-6) How have those with disputes brought shame on the church and the name of Christ? _____

4. (v.7) What would be preferable to the course of action the Corinthians were taking? _____

Note: This is the first of several references that Paul makes in the book of 1 Corinthians about not insisting on our rights. Paul makes a number of comments in this epistle that a Christian should be willing to forgo things to which they are entitled for the sake of the glory of God and the greater good of the Church, the Body of Christ.

THE WICKED WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 _____ Check

5. (v.9) Who will not inherit the kingdom of God? _____

6. (v.9-10) List some of the examples Paul gives to describe “the wicked.” _____

7. (v.11) Did this describe the character of some of the Corinthians before they came to Christ?

Yes _____ No _____

8. (v. 11) What three works of God are listed which indicate that the Corinthians have been changed?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

9. How were these things accomplished? _____

Note: This passage is not saying that a person that does any of these things will not go to heaven. Some of the Corinthians themselves were guilty of these very same sins. Paul is showing that in Christ, God now sees us as new creations. Positionally we have been made clean and are sanctified and justified in God’s sight. This position is not based on anything which we have done but is rather a work of God through the Holy Spirit based on the death of Jesus Christ.

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 _____ Check

10. (v.13) What were our bodies not created for? _____
What were our bodies created for? _____

11. (v.14) What will the power of God that raised the Lord be able to do? _____

12. (v.15) How does Paul describe our bodies? _____

13. (v.16) How does Paul describe the relationship one has if they have sexual relations with a prostitute? _____

Note: In order to reinforce his point Paul quotes from Genesis 2:24 which says, “The two shall become one flesh.” This is given in the context of the union of husband and wife. For God there is no such thing as casual sexual relations. He designed the sexual union to be restricted to married couples and he expects Christians to regard it in the same way.

14. (v.17) How does he describe one that is united to the Lord? _____

15. (v. 18) What clear command does Paul give in this verse? _____
How do sexual sins differ from other types of sins? _____

16. (vss.19-20) It was mentioned above that one theme repeated throughout the book of 1 Corinthians is that Christians should be willing to not demand their rights for the sake of God’s glory. Explain using your own words how these verses provide the basis for such teaching. _____

CHAPTER SEVEN

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-39 _____ Check

General advice on marriage (vss. 1-7)

1. (v.1) How did Paul find out about the concerns the Corinthians had over these issues? _____

2. (v.1) What is Paul’s main advice for a man? _____

3. (v.2) Because of immorality, what does Paul instruct them to do? _____

4. (vss.3-5) What are the responsibilities that husbands and wives have to each other and why? _____

5. (v.6) Are the instructions to not marry in verses 1 and 7 meant to be a command from God or advice from Paul? _____

6. (v.7) How does Paul describe his ability to be content although not married? _____

Advice to unmarried and widowed people (vss. 8-9)

7. (v.8) What is Paul's advice to this group of people? _____

8. (v.9) When does he suggest that single people marry? _____

Advice to the married (vss. 10-11)

9. (v.10) Is this advice being given as Paul's recommendation or as a commandment from the Lord? _____

10. (vss.10-11) What is Paul's general advice concerning someone leaving or divorcing their spouse? _____

11. (vs.11) If someone does leave their spouse how should they live? _____

Advice for those in other circumstances (vss. 12-16)

12. (vs.12) Is the following advice from the Lord or Paul's recommendation? _____

13. (vss.12-13) Should a believing spouse leave their partner because he or she is an unbeliever? _____

14. (vs. 13) What should the believing spouse do if his or her partner is willing to remain married? _____

15. (vs.14) How does the believer's presence in the marriage effect the relationship? _____

16. (vs.15) What should the believer do if the unbeliever chooses to leave? _____

17. (vs.15) How has God called us to live? _____

18. (vs.16) What reason does Paul give for the believing partner to remain with the unbeliever? _____

General rules for people in various circumstances (vss. 17-24)

19. (v.17) What is the general rule which Paul lays down for the churches? _____

20. (vss.21-22) Were slaves to actively seek their freedom? _____

Were they to accept freedom if it was offered to them? _____

21. (v.22) How were they to view themselves in Christ? _____

22. (v.23) On what basis should believers not become enslaved to men in their minds? _____

Note: Slavery was an accepted social institution in the Roman Empire. Although Paul recognized that slaves would desire freedom, he never encouraged them to run away from their owners. In other passages Paul gives instructions both to slaves and masters (Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25). Paul does not endorse the institution of slavery, but he gives guidelines as to how Christians should live regardless of their circumstances in life.

Advice to unmarried women (vss. 25-31)

23. (v.25) Is the advice Paul give in these verses directly from the Lord or his own opinion? _____

24. (v.26) How does Paul describe the current situation in Corinth? _____

Note: No one knows for certain what “distress” Paul was referring to. Some have suggested that the believers were experiencing persecution. Others believe Paul is referring to his conviction that the Lord was going to return in his own lifetime. Whatever he was referring to it explains the tentative nature of many of the commands in this chapter.

25. (v.26-27) What is the advice Paul gives to the unmarried? _____

26. (v.28) What does Paul say to someone that does marry? _____

27. (vss.29-31) How does Paul describe the way the Corinthian believers should live? _____

Reasons for remaining single (vss. 32-37)

28. (vss. 32 –35) Describe in your own words the benefit there is for a man or woman to remain unmarried. ____

29. (vs. 36) What is Paul’s advise to a man that is engaged to a woman that is getting older and he would like to marry her? _____

30. (vs. 37) Is it wrong for someone that chooses not to marry his fiancé. _____

31. (vs. 39) How long is a woman bound to be married to her husband? _____

32. (vs. 39) Under what condition may she remarry and whom may she marry? _____

Note: This verse is very important because it is a direct application of the principle that believers should only marry other believers. The most commonly used verse to defend this principle is 2 Corinthians 6:14 which instructs Christians to not be “unequally yoked” with unbelievers.

CHAPTER EIGHT

FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 and answer the following questions.

Note: Corinth was a city dominated by paganism. There were dozens of temples to the various Greek gods and food was offered as sacrifices to these gods. It was a common practice if the leftover meat from the sacrifice was not eaten either by the priest or the offerer to sell the meat in the public market. It was impossible to know if the meat one bought was ordinary or if it had been part of a pagan sacrifice. This created a moral dilemma for two groups of Christians. Those that converted from Judaism would have found that eating such food to be abhorrent. Some of the Gentile believers might associate the meat with the pagan sacrifice in their minds and feel they are somehow defiling themselves by eating it.

This portion of scripture, while directly referring to the question of food sacrificed to idols, also relates principles that can be applied to many other practices which, though not directly forbidden in Scripture, some Christians might disapprove of while others may not be bothered. Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 and Romans 14 to learn more of what Paul says about these “gray areas” of the Christian life.

1. (vss. 1-3) Paul says, “knowledge puffs up, but love “builds up” (KJV-edifieth). Describe in your own words the point that Paul is making in verses 1-3 about the difference between knowledge and love. _____

2. (vs. 4) How does Christians to regard idols? _____

3. (vss. 5-6) How does Paul describe God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? _____

4. (vs. 7) How does Paul describe the feelings of some Christians that eat meat they are afraid has been offered idols? _____

5. (vs. 8) Does eating or not eating certain kinds of food change our relationship with God? _____

6. (vss.9-11) How could the eating of meat have a negative effect on a fellow believer? _____

7. (vs. 12) Against whom do we sin when we do things that violate the conscience of other Christians? _____

8. (vs. 13) How does verse 13 reinforce the recurring theme of 1 Corinthians that Christians should be willing to give up their rights? _____

Write 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 from memory on the lines below.

Use the space below for any questions or comments:

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