

February 11, 2018

WHO ARE YOU?

**1 Corinthians 6**

The heathen culture in Corinth was taking its toll on the God's church. For them, the line between right & wrong was nearly erased; the church was no longer holy – *separated out from the rest of the world*; they had vanished into society! Paul, their father/teacher in spiritual things, could scarcely believe their descent! As if he could no longer recognize them, he asks, **"Who are you?"**

You're familiar with this phrase: perhaps you've asked or been asked the same thing when choices or actions are completely out of character! Had the church lost their grip on their new Christ-centered identity, or did they never truly understand their new lives in Christ? Either way, the bottom-line truth is declared by Paul in verses **19,20**: **"...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? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body!"**

*How were these Christians not glorifying God as His temples?*

**READ: 1COR 6:1-11 (NLT)**

**1-8) Law suites: disputes w/ brethren judged by Unbelievers**  
*Can you imagine? God's people, born-again of Spirit & Truth, entrusting verdicts to Unbelievers who cannot know truth?*

**\*Lawsuits = proof that you aren't loving/forgiving each other!**

- Unbelieving judges who don't know God's truth by HS
- Airing "dirty laundry" in the presence of unbelievers
- Petty disputes over property, possessions & offenses!

**Shame on you!** You should be willing to be wronged rather than to pursue retribution that destroys God's reputation in Corinth!

**WHO ARE YOU?**

The real shame is that they were denying the reality of who they were – not just as God's people, but as the vessels thru which He operates in this world! Paul reminds them that they will judge the people of the world as God's trophies of grace – as proof of His wisdom, power & life! Somehow, they forgot that:

- They have the mind of Christ (2:16)** – He solves disputes with truth, compassion & reconciliation!
- They are called to suffer even for doing what is right (1Pet 2:20b)**
- They're called to meet other's needs at self-sacrifice! (Phil 2:3,4)**

**9-11)** Paul seems to be asking: *"Check out your own salvation" Your choices/actions are suspect of being natural/unregenerate!*

CHECK POINT: *How are your/am I doing with these issues?*

**Main Point:** God is here/now to operate in us & thru us – empowering us to act out His will in the details of earthly life! But Christians seem to operate as if God were remote – not present, on hand, or enough! Too many Christians today deny:

- God's communication by His Spirit because it seems too mysterious! God will communicate to you what you need to know in a way you can understand!
- The divine life of Christ – Jesus living His life in us by His Spirit – b/c we can't fathom how; work it out!

I hope it's not true of you, but I see most Christians still sinning against God in the same way that Adam did – **by believing that we actually know what's best & can correctly choose between right & wrong! But we cannot!** And for those who are leaning into Jesus & depending on His Spirit...***the Gospel Good News is that we don't have to!*** It is God's joy to lead us into His Way, His Truth & His Life in every detail of living. ***But we must collaborate with Him; we must expect & allow Him to!***

**17) "The person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him"**

**INVITATION TO MAKE A PERSONAL RESPONSE:**

What is your next step to collaborating with God as His vessel:

- What do you need to start doing or stop doing?*
- How do you need to start thinking or stop thinking?*
- What do you need to start expecting or stop expecting?*

## **WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Isaiah 43:1-3 (NLT)**

**1) But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. 2) When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. 3) For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.**

These promises of God to be present, to protect and to provide are made to His people, those He created, called and redeemed. He states very clearly that His people have nothing to fear in this life – *not because they won't face difficulties, dangers & dilemmas – but because He is with them; He is always present, on hand & enough!*

Jesus said, ***“I will not leave you as orphans. When I go away, I will send the Helper (Holy Spirit); He will be with you forever!”*** God has only come closer in the NC – not merely to dwell among us, but in us! So...why are our days filled with so much anxiety & fear? *How do we live with so much apprehension and so little peace? Why do our lives look so much like Unbelievers? Have we forgotten or do we not know that “...our body is a temple of...?”*

Sermon in a Sentence: WHO ARE YOU?

## **1Corinthians 6:1-11 (NLT)**

**1) When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! 2) Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? 3) Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. 4) If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? 5) I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise-enough to decide these issues? 6) But instead, one believer sues another – right in front of unbelievers!**

**7) Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? 8) Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers.**

**9) Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10) or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people – none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11) Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”**

**Main point: *These lawsuits proved that they were fleshly, immature, not loving or forgiving each other, unwilling to be humiliated by “loss,” and trusting unbelieving judges to pass verdicts even though they were entirely ignorant to God's truth! These lawsuits among the brethren represented a new low in the spiritual life of the church in Corinth.***

So...what about us? Are we too willing to protect *ourselves/property/personal possessions & rights against other believers - even in our church? And if so, shouldn't that cause us to check out our own salvation to ensure new, regenerated life In Christ? For in Him, we have become one spirit with God* (meaning that we share His gracious generosity toward others)

The gospel IS **“Christ in you/me – the hope (confident expectation) of glory (not only eternally, but right here/now in the world today as His vessels).**

## **STUDY TOPICS:**

### **2) ...the saints will judge the world**

-Could it be that we who believe in the foolish message of God (wisdom) are in fact the litmus of God's wisdom? Are believers not those who shame the world's wisdom, strength and boastful somebody's?

### **3) ...we shall judge angels**

Perhaps in the sense that we are “joint heirs with Christ,” will be with Him at the Great White Throne when unbelievers are judged guilty of violating God's righteousness. God has/will also judge the angels (who rebelled), and we (who share the life of God thru faith in Christ) judge them with Him.