

Christ Fellowship

Series: I Corinthians

Lesson 12

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“The Letter to the Church of God which is at Corinth”

The Infection of Inconsistency

I. Introduction, 1.1-9

II. The problem of divisions in the Corinthian Church reflects a misunderstanding of the apostolic message and messenger, 1.10—4.21.

III. The Various Disorders in the Corinthian Church Arose from Their Failure to Make Wise Moral Decisions, 5.1—6.20

A. The Corinthian believers did not judge open immorality because of pride and failure to see that unjudged sin affects the whole church, 5.1-13.

B. The Corinthian believers took each other to pagan law courts because they failed to see their own spiritual competence to judge their own disputes, 6.1-11.

1. They were taking their cases before unbelievers for settlement when they should have taken them for arbitration before the saints in the church, 6.1.

2. There are three reasons why it was illogical for them to take disputes before pagan law courts and not before the saints, 6.2-11.

a. Lawsuits between the Corinthian believers before pagan courts were inconsistent with their future responsibilities and present abilities, 6.2-6.

b. Lawsuits between the Corinthian believers before pagan courts were inconsistent with the Christian attitude of relinquishing personal rights, 6.7-8.

c. Lawsuits between the Corinthian believers before pagan courts were inconsistent with their righteous standing in Jesus Christ, 6.9-11.

v9 — “nor effeminate, nor homosexuals” (NASB); “nor men who practice homosexuality” (ESV), the ESV combines two terms smoothing out the repeated conjunction translated “nor.” These two terms of unbiblical sexuality cover a passive aspect, “effeminate,” and an active aspect, “homosexuals.” It seems best to translate as the NASB so both aspects are clearly identified in this list of self centered sins. cf Rom1.18-32. It is also important to note that these unnatural sins are no greater nor less than the other self centered sins the Apostle Paul enumerates.