



**Sunday September 22, 2019**  
**1 Corinthians chapter 6**

We divide chapter six into three sections for our study:  
Resolving Disputes Between Believers (6:1-8)  
Washed, Sanctified, Justified (6:9-11)  
Stay Away From Sexual Sin (6:12-20)

After addressing the matter of sexual sin in the local church in chapter 5, Paul turns his attention to two other matters that we find in this chapter: disputes between believers in the local church and believers living free from sexual sin.

**Resolving Disputes Between Believers (6:1-8)**

- 1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?**
- 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?**
- 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?**
- 4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?**
- 5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?**
- 6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!**
- 7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?**
- 8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!**

The issue here is that believers who have disputes between them were taking matters to the civil court in order to have things resolved. Local judges sat in what was called at that time the "Bema Seat", which was a raised stone platform in the open city center or the center of the marketplace. Greek culture found legal disputes a matter of entertainment. Imagine two believers fighting it out before a unsaved judge with the public looking on. What testimony would this be before the unbelievers?!

The apostle points to the fact that as believers we will judge the world and even angels in time to come. Should we not then, with the wisdom and revelation given to us by God, be able to judge and resolve matters between ourselves?



### **Side Note : Saints and Angels**

- As believers we are saints, and we are in a privileged position much better than angels.
- We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ to inherit all things (Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 21:7).
- God has set us as examples to angels (Ephesians 3:8-11; 1 Corinthians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 11:10).
- Angels desire to look into and discover the plan of God for us who are the redeemed (1 Peter 1:10-13).
- We will reign with Jesus during His millennial rule and help administer His Kingdom on earth (Daniel 7:22; Matthew 19:28; Revelation 2:26; Revelation 20:4).
- The Bible does not disclose in what way we will judge angels, other than we are in a place better than angels at the Father's right hand in Christ (Ephesians 2:4-6) and that we will judge them (1 Corinthians 6:3).

### **What About Civil Courts And Legal Authority?**

We should not use this passage to show contempt or disregard for civil court and legal authority. The apostle Paul taught us to submit to the civil authority stating these are from God in Romans 13:3-4. When Paul himself was wronged he appealed to the legal system stating that he was a Roman citizen and had the right to a fair trial in Acts 22:25. He also exercised his right as a Roman citizen and appealed to the highest level, to Caesar himself in Acts 25:10-11.

### **The Real Issue - Brother Against Brother**

The real issue being addressed here is on resolving disputes between believers. We must learn to settle things amongst ourselves using the principles of God.

The Lord Jesus outlines this for us in Matthew 18:15-17:

#### **Matthew 18:15-17**

**15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.**

**16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED.'**

**17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.**

### **Rather Accept Wrong**

#### **vs 7-8:**

**7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?**

**8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!**



If you have been wronged you have the choice of choosing to "accept wrong" and "let yourselves be cheated" and let the matter go. Else go through the process outlines in Matthew 18:15-17 and see if the matter can be resolved with the help of other believers or the church. If either one refuses to heed the judgment (resolution) administered by the leaders of the local church, then there is no option but to treat him as you would an unbeliever. The choice to go to a civil court and initiate legal action is left to you.

As believers in Jesus Christ we are called to be peacemakers, and we must first learn to do this amongst ourselves.

**Matthew 5:9**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.**

**Washed, Sanctified, Justified (6:9-11)**

**8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!**

**9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.**

**Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,**

**10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**

**11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

The Corinthian believers were doing wrong, cheating one another and taking each other to court. Paul points this out and reminds them that those who live in such manner, along with several other sinful things (not necessarily a complete list), will not have any part in the Kingdom of God. He tells them not to be deceived (go astray).

While this is only a partial list, consider what Paul mentions:

- fornicators Greek '*pronos*' = prostitute, any sexual sin
- idolaters = worshipper of false gods, of mammon
- adulterers = sexual sin violating the covenant of marriage, one who breaks trust
- homosexuals Greek '*malakos*' = homosexuals, male prostitutes
- sodomites Greek '*arsenokoites*' = a generic term for all homosexual practice, unnatural sexual offenses; a sexual pervert.
- thieves
- covetous = greedy
- drunkards
- revilers = abusive, curses others, slanderer
- extortioners = cheats people, swindler, thief



While this list covers a wide range of sins, it is not necessarily a complete list of sin that would keep someone out of the Kingdom of God.

The Bible clearly states here that all forms of homosexuality is sin. Homosexuality was rampant in Paul's culture; fourteen out of the first fifteen Roman emperors were bisexual or homosexual. The Corinthian believers came out of such a culture.

**vs 11:**

**And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.**

The wonderful news is that now they have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**washed** Greek '*apolouo*' to wash off, to wash the whole person.

When we call on the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 22:16), we are washed from our sins by the blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5) through the mercy of God (Titus 3:5).

**sanctified** Greek '*hagiazō*' to hallow, to set apart, to consecrate, to separate from sin unto God.

We are set apart, away from the world and unto God, because of the work of Jesus on the cross (Hebrews 10:10), by faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 26:18), by God's Word (John 15:3; John 17:19) and by the work of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:16).

**justified** Greek '*dikaioō*' to declare righteous or just, free from all guilt, shame, judgment and condemnation.

We are justified freely by God's grace through faith and because of the work of Jesus on the cross (Romans 3:24,28; Romans 5:1).

Lets declare this boldly "*I am washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God*".

If the Lord did it then, He still does it today! People can be brought out of all forms of sin - become washed, sanctified (holy) and justified (righteous) - in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.



## **Stay Away From Sexual Sin (6:12-20)**

**12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.**

**13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.**

**14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.**

**15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!**

**16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "THE TWO," He says, "SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."**

**17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

**18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.**

**19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?**

**20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

### **vs 12:**

**All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.**

There may be things that are lawful, acceptable and considered right. But they are not beneficial or profitable and hence we should not be brought under the (control, authority) of anything.

In the context of this passage, Paul is addressing the issue of sexual sin and specifically the use of a prostitute. At that time using the services of a prostitute was culturally acceptable in Corinth. In fact, the city was known for it. But Paul was calling believers not to be brought under the control of anything, not even this culturally acceptable practice.

### **vs 13-14:**

**13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.**

**14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.**

Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods. We recognize that there are normal natural appetites that need to be satisfied. The body gets hungry and needs food. The body has sexual appetites that need to be satisfied. God will bring both the appetites of the body and the things that satisfy it to an end. (We know we will eat at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, but that is of a different nature. We will not be eating in order to sustain life rather to celebrate life.)



What is important now is to keep our appetites submitted to the Lord.

The appetites of the body must not lead me to sin, as I go about satisfying those needs. Hence the body though it has sexual appetites, the body is not for sexual immorality (Greek '*porneia*'). I do not use immoral means to satisfy the sexual appetites of the body.

The body is for the Lord and the Lord is for the body.

I keep my body consecrated to the Lord.

The Lord makes Himself available for my body now and in the future.

In the future He will raise us up by His power, just as Christ was raised up from the dead. In what ways is the Lord for the body, in the present? The Lord is Healer - so the Lord for the body means He is the healer of my body now. The Lord is strengthener - so the Lord for the body means His strength becomes available to me now, in the present.

Declare: "My body is not for sexual sin. My body is for the Lord. And the Lord is for my body."

Declare: "The Lord is for my body. The Lord is Healer, and His healing is for my body. The Lord is Strengthener, and His strength is for my body."

**vs 15:**

**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!**

members Greek '*melos*' meaning a limb, a part of the body.

harlot Greek '*porne*' meaning prostitute, a woman who sells her body for sexual uses.

Our bodies are part of the body of Christ, and so should never become part of the body of a prostitute.

See your body as holy, because it is part of Christ's own body, a means by which He is revealed and expressed here on earth. Christ ought to be revealed through my body.

Declare: "My body is part of the body of Christ."

**vs 16-17:**

**16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "THE TWO," He says, "SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."**



**17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

joined Greek '*kollao*' to glue together, stick together, to cement, to fasten together, to cleave together

body Greek '*soma*' refers to the physical body, also used of a social, ethical, mystical body as when a group of people are together in a society, etc.

In a sexual relationship outside of marriage the two become "one flesh", except that this joining is something done in sin and hence is under God's judgment.

**Hebrews 13:4**

**Marriage is honorable** (precious, valuable, of great price) **among all, and the bed undefiled** (pure); **but fornicators** (Greek ' *pornos*') **and adulterers God will judge.**

In sexual relationship within marriage the two becoming "one flesh" is pure and is under God's blessing.

**vs 17:**

**But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

As believers we must know that we are joined to the Lord in spirit. We are one with Him spiritually. We are in spiritual union with Him.

Think of all the ramifications of being spiritually one with the Lord. As Jesus said in John 14:20, we are in Him and He is in us. Our spiritual identity is in Him. His life is in us. John says in 1 John 4:17 "*..as He is so are we in this world*". "*...Our life in this world is the same as Christ's*" (GNB). "*...In this world we are like Jesus*" (ERV).

**Declare: "I am spiritually one with Jesus. I am in Him and He is in me. My spiritual identity is in Him. He is in me. His life is in me. He works through me."**

**vs 18:**

**Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.**

flee Greek '*pheugo*' means to run away, vanish, escape, seek safety by flight, to fly away

sexual immorality Greek '*porneia*' refers to all forms of sexual sin.

**Flee sexual immorality...**



In view of the truth that we are joined to the Lord and are spiritually one with Him, our only response to all forms of sexual sin is to FLEE!

When you have even the slightest inkling that a temptation to sexual sin may be about to present itself don't stop to think, ponder, reflect. RUN FIRST. Think later.

....Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Normally most of the sins we commit, the wrong we do is external and does not affect the body. Sexual sin has a way of affecting and violating the body in moral and spiritual ways.

Proverbs 5:22 says in this context that a man committing adultery gets "caught in the cords of his sin". It is enslaving.

Proverbs 6:26-32 says that adultery reduces a man to nothing, is like setting yourself on fire, and is destroying your own soul. It is destructive.

1 Peter 2:11 tells us that fleshly lust war against our own soul (mind, will and emotions). It is troubling.

Sex outside of marriage might appear exciting, but can never be enriching.

Declare: "I turn away from all sexual sin."

#### **vs 19-20:**

**19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?**

**20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

As believers this is truth we must understand that will help us stay away from all kinds of sexual sin.

The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. We are God's dwelling place and hence we are holy. Hence we must not defile, dirty or desecrate God's temple.

We are no longer our own. We are purchased by God and we belong to God. Hence we cannot sell or give ourselves away to any other.





Declare: "My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and is a dwelling place of God. My body is holy."

Declare: "My body is not mine. My spirit, soul and body have been bought with the blood of Jesus and belong to God."

### **Truth To Overcome Sexual Sin**

In teaching the Corinthian believers (and all of us) how to stay away from sexual sin, the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul reveals the following truths, which we have captured in these **bold declarations**:

- My body is not for sexual sin. My body is for the Lord.
- My body is part of the body of Christ.
- I am spiritually one with Jesus. He is in me. I am in Him.
- I run away from all sexual sin.
- My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and is a dwelling place of God. My body is holy.
- My body is not mine. My spirit, soul and body have been bought with the blood of Jesus and belong to God.

### **MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL**



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday September 22, 2019**  
**1 Corinthians chapter 6**

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Corinthians chapter 6*

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*1, Can you think of scenarios where believers had disputes, and they should have followed Scriptural directives to have these resolved. Share these without disclosing names/personal details. The goal here is to learn so that in future things could be addressed Biblically.*

*2, We've been washed, sanctified and justified. Reflect on your joy when you first understood this truth that you have been washed, sanctified and justified. What were your feelings?*

*3, What are Biblical truths and keys that will help us stay away from sexual sin, as presented in 1 Corinthians 6:12-20?*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.



**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.