

I. **Review:** 1Cor 5:12-13; 1Cor 6:1-8 – **RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**

- A. Our obligation is to hold each other accountable to encourage one another to love and good deeds by judging rightly.
- B. Our business is to judge matters within the church, not outside the church, as a family is responsible for judging itself and holding themselves accountable to God.
- C. Don't get entangled in lawsuits. It is better to suffer being wronged than to take vengeance upon another, especially if that person is your brother in Christ.
- D. The saints are to be the judges of any wrongdoing between brethren in the church.

II. **Continuation** – *Not of the world though we live in the world...*

A. 1Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV) *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, (10) nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

- i. He repeats again the list we saw in chapter 5 and adds a few more malpractices.
- ii. Some of the Corinthians were not only erring, they were downright iniquitous. Their sinning was willful - they had established a trend, a pattern of unrighteousness (lawlessness - 1Jn 3:4), endangering their very faith and the faith of others. God's kingdom is holy and no wickedness will be able to enter it (Rev 21:27).
- iii. Some of the Corinthian Christians were not living redeemed (holy) lives and were in danger of losing their eternal inheritance. The Spirit makes it clear that those who trend in the following will not inherit the kingdom of God:
  - 1. **Sexually immoral** (fornicators) - those who commit sexual sins. Those who live to fill their sexual passions by thought and/or action. Jesus said that to look at women lustfully was the same as committing adultery (Mat 5:28), so entertaining sexually immoral thoughts are equal to having committed the action as well, however minute the thought is.
  - 2. **Idolaters** - those who worship false gods, or who worship God falsely (Mal 1:6-14) - whether they worship created or material things, or are people-pleasers or pay homage to a false idea of who God is. To bow down (literally, emotionally or intellectually) to a graven image - to a man-made concept of God. You cannot serve to images (Mat 6:24).
  - 3. **Adulterers** - those who cheat on their spouses; who seek to be satisfied with another in the way their spouse should satisfy them. Those who divorce their spouses and marry another, except for sexual immorality (Mat 5:32; Mat 19:9). God calls any kind of disobedience to His law adultery, showing how He takes your sin so very personally (Jer 3:8-10; Eze 6:9; Hos 1:2; Hos 3:1), as you would feel if your spouse committed adultery against you.
  - 4. **Effeminate** (absent in ESV and GW, male prostitutes [NIV], homosexuals [NKJV]) - *malakoi* (also in Mat 11:8 and Luk 7:25). Luxurious and dainty. It denotes those who give themselves up to a soft, luxurious, and indolent (lazy) way of living; who make self-indulgence the grand object of life; who can endure no hardship, and practice no self-denial in the cause of duty and of God. The word is applied in the classic writers to the Cinaedi, the Pathics, or Catamites (Latin - *passive receivers* - these were the names given to those men who behaved or acted as females in sexual roles); those who are given up to wantonness and sensual pleasures, or who are kept to be prostituted to others.

5. **Homosexuals** (abusers of themselves with mankind – KJV, ASV) - *arsenokoitai* – Sodomites (NKJV). Referring to the sin of Sodom - those who committed sexual acts with members of their own gender. Referred to as unnatural, shameless and dishonorable (Rom 1:26-28).
  6. **NIV 2011 Footnote:** The words *men who have sex with men* translate two Greek words that refer to the passive and active participants in homosexual acts.
    - a. It is not just the homosexual acts that are described as unrighteous, but the homosexual lifestyle as well; since we know from the classic use of the terminology Paul uses which the Corinthians knew all too well.
- iv. It is interesting that this list pretty much covers all sexual sins. Since Corinth seemed to be a red light city, the Spirit was very direct with the members of the church and specifies all the different kinds of sins that are of a sexual nature or orientation.
1. **Thieves** (robbers) - *kleptace* - embezzler, pilferer; those who abuse the confidence of others for their own gain.
  2. **Greedy** (covetous) - those who are not satisfied with what they have, always wanting more and more; those who are always wanting more, especially what belongs to others - greedy of gain - never satisfied - never wanting to give but always getting. Life does not consist of what you can gain (Luk 12:15-21). What are you storing up for? Heaven or Earth? 2 Co 8-9 teaches us the right attitude in giving.
  3. **Drunkards** - those who seek intoxication, whether by distilled spirits or other methods, to escape reality and responsibility.
  4. **Revilers** (abusers, bullies) - those who seek to intimidate with abusive language or threats. Those who seek to be in control by threatening - those who bully others to manipulate - blackmailers.
  5. **Swindlers** (cheaters, extortioners, dishonest) - those who always want to think they are in control - manipulating to get what they want - lying to get ahead or to be in control - thieves and robbers - dishonest gain. The Scriptures teach us to do honest work to be able to share with others (Eph 4:28; 2Th 3:10).

v. **WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

1. John 3:3-6
2. John 3:16-21
3. Only those who are born again can inherit God's kingdom - see it and enter it.
4. A regenerated life exposes the works of darkness (transparency), coming to the light.
5. A regenerated life walks in truth and obeys the truth - showing God is in them.
6. Titus 3:4-7

B. 1Corinthians 6:11 (ESV) *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

- i. He's reminding them of what they were before coming to Christ - the scum of the Earth, without any nobility or acclaim (1Co 1:26), especially before God! We need to consider ourselves poor in Spirit (Mat 5:3) that we may be filled with God. If not we will be filled with the world - with wrongful judgment and vindictiveness, not being able to grow and spiritually mature.
- ii. We need to remember Jesus had mercy on us despite our brokenness (Mat 12:20) and forgave our debt which is always larger than any debt anyone may have outstanding against us, as He illustrates in the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Mat 18:21-35).
- iii. We have been:

1. **Washed**: in the blood of Jesus - perfect cleaning agent for the stain of sin that nothing else can remove. We have been made clean in spite of ourselves!
  2. **Sanctified**: by a holy God - who lives high on His Holy Hill (Isa 57:15) - Unapproachable because we are so common and ignoble - but He made us holy!
  3. **Justified**: Despite our nature to go back to wallow in sin because of the flesh, we stand justified in the sight of God - there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus! We are not justified by our works but by His Faith and His Work on the cross!
- iv. IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD...**
- v. There can be no greater acclaim nor standard than the name of Jesus, our Lord Jesus, and no greater power of renewal and regeneration than by the Spirit of our God (Tit 3:4-7) who made the *cosmos* (the whole universe, known and unknown) out of nothing, by the power of His word.
  - vi. **Our standing in Christ**: washed, sanctified and justified - comes from an authority and power beyond any mortal dominion. The implication is that as sure as you can see the sun rising in the morning and as sure as the stars and moon are as they are - even surer than that is your standing in Christ. You must believe and hold firm to this Gospel - coming into the light and leaving darkness behind.
  - vii. The Corinthians were being reminded that it was not by their own power or goodness they had been saved. Only by their own wickedness they were producing shame. Only truly regenerated lives were able to show the power of the Spirit, which would also show their capacity to judge rightly and fulfill the purpose of the Gospel of Jesus. They needed to come out into the light and stop hiding in the darkness of their works and ways.