

“Do You Not Know”
1 Corinthians 6:1-11
4/11/21
Message 12

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Do You Not Know”

- **Review - Making our Way through 1 Corinthians**

- **1st The Church Started Strong**

- Paul founded the church on his 2nd missionary journey
- Paul Spent 18 months there
- Church started GREAT - IN The Spirit
- But ran into major problems - SIN
- Paul gets word of these problems and writes his letters
 - 1st Letter was not received well

- **2nd First Issues Paul deals with DIVISION – CARNALITY**

- Paul Has been dealing with Divisions – Carnality
 - Pride – Caused Division Chapters 1-2
 - I am of Paul - Apollos, etc...
 - Carnality in the church Chapter 3
 - They were stuck on milk - could not eat meat
 - Shows Them Right Example Chapter 4
 - What a TRUE church and PASTOR should look like

- Have beginning in the Spirit - don't attempt to make perfect in the flesh
- The Marks of a faithful Church - Pastor - is not the flesh BUT the Spirit working in him
 - Faithful In Stewardship vs. 1-6
 - Servants
 - Faithful In Sacrifice vs. 9-13
 - The Gospel will cost
 - Faithful In Sincerity vs. 14-21
 - Love you as a father
- **3rd Last Time Together Dealt With Immorality In The Church – Chapter 5**
 - Moves to the Subject of Sexual Sin -
 - Unrepentant Sin
 - Church Discipline
 - Our Attitude Towards Unrepentant Sin Within The Church vs. 1-8
 - Our Association With Those Involved in Unrepentant Sin vs. 9-13

• **Now To Chapter 6**

- **1st NOTICE - As we look at the whole of Chapter 6**
 - You see that over and over Paul addresses Church with the challenge...
 - **“Do You Not KNOW”**
 - Challenge - You get the hint of a little sarcasm in Paul's voice

- As if he is saying
- "You who profess to be so clever and intellectual can it be that you are ignorant of these basic facts?"
- And How is it that you have forgotten who and what you are in Christ
- Encouragement - But You Also get Live in Victory
 - Remember Your position in Christ
- **2nd Paul Makes this statement – Do You Not Know - 6 times**
 - **3 Time in vs. 1-11**
 - V.2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?
 - V. 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels?
 - V. 6 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?
 - In other words, focus
 - **"Remember WHAT You Are"**
 - **3 Time in vs. 12-20**
 - V. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
 - Vs. 16-17

1 Corinthians 6:16–17 (NKJV)

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.

- Vs. 19-20

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

- 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.

- In other words-
 - **"Remember To Whom You Belong."**

• **This Moring Do You NOT Know - Remember What You Are!**

- 5 Main Points
 - The Problem They Had v. 1
 - Their Position In Christ vs. 2-5
 - The Price That Was Paid vs. 6-7a, 8
 - The Principle That We Should Have v. 7b
 - God's Purpose For Believers vs. 9-11

The Problem They Had v. 1

• **First: Dare any of you v. 1a**

1 Corinthians 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

- **1st This is VERY Strong Wording**
 - Paul simply can't believe what these Corinthian Christians are doing this!!!
 - They Should Know better – this is destroying your witness in the community
 - **MacArthur, J; "Suing another believer in a secular law court is a daring act of disobedience because of its implications related to all sin—the displeasure of God."**
 - So – DARE you!!!?

• **Second: Having a matter against another v. 1b**

1 Corinthians 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Dare any of you, **having a matter against another**, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

○ **1st Have a Matter Against Another**

- The Problem Corinthian believers
 - PRIDE
 - They were so taken with human philosophy – Lived So much in the World
 - So insistent on believing and doing what they wanted
 - That they were divided, bickering, and exceptionally immoral
- This text reveals
 - They were
 - Envious of fellow Christians
 - Critical of fellow Christians
 - And took business and financial advantage of each other
 - They carried these things so far as to take each other to court-and secular, pagan courts at that

○ **2nd Second Backdrop**

- The legal situation in Corinth was probably a lot like it was in Athens, where litigation was a part of everyday life
- One ancient writer claimed that, in a manner of speaking, every Athenian was a lawyer

- The local judge sat in what was known as the “bema” seat of the civil magistrate
- It was located in the heart of the marketplace.
- Because Greek culture found a good legal battle entertaining, anyone’s lawsuit soon became public knowledge.

• **Third: Unrighteous is literally unjust, in the sense of “not justified before God, not saved.” V. 11c**

1 Corinthians 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

- **AKA: Why are the Corinthian Christians trying to find justice from those who aren’t justified before God?**
 - Paul is using the term unrighteous in a religious sense, not a moral sense.
 - It isn’t that Corinthian judges were necessarily bad judges, but they were not Christians
 - Paul was concerned because they had so little respect for the church’s authority and ability to settle its own disputes

Their Position In Christ vs. 2-5

1 Corinthians 6:2–3 (NKJV)

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?

• **First: As To Their Calling**

- **1st Position**
 - **1st The Saints will Judge the WORLD**
 - Did You Catch that?!

- Let me read a few more –

Revelation 2:26–27 (NKJV)

26 *And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*

27 *'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father;*

Revelation 3:21–22 (NKJV)

21 *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

22 *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ’*

Revelation 20:4 (NKJV)

4 *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

- The “They” is US – Rev. 20:4
- Somehow - We will be involved in God’s process of judging the world.
- When Jesus returns to set up His Millennial Kingdom
 - Believers from throughout all of history will be His coregents you can say, sitting with Him on His throne
 - Part of our responsibility as rulers with Christ will be to judge the world...to rule and reign
- The apostles will have special authority
 - Ruling from “twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28)
- But every believer will participate in some way
- **2nd Do you not know that we shall judge ANGELS?**

- The idea of Christians judging angels is fascinating.
- We will have a part in judging evil angels.
- **2nd Are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters:**
 - SO - If Christians are being prepared right now for such a glorious destiny
 - Why cant you figure SMALLER Issues out?!
 - Paul's point is that if God is going to give us this job later, shouldn't we be able to handle disputes between each other?

• **Second: As To Their Capability vs. 4-5**

1 Corinthians 6:4 (NKJV)

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?

- **1st If Then have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life v. 4a**
 - **1st We Are Filled With The HS = More Qualified**
 - Christians are members of the "body of Christ" and are indwelt by His own Spirit
 - SO All the resources of
 - Truth
 - Wisdom
 - Equity
 - Justice
 - Love
 - Kindness
 - Generosity
 - Understanding
 - Are in the people of God

- SO God is Saying WE ARE SO much MORE qualified to Judge in these matters then the courts
- **2nd Christians aren't to take other Christians to worldly courts**
 - When we put ourselves under the authority of the world like this,
 - We show that we do not have the right actions and attitudes to take care of it in a godly way
 - Believers who go to court with believers are more concerned
 - With revenge or gain than with the unity of the Body and the glory of Jesus Christ
 - Paul is saying that disputes between Christians should be settled by and among Christians
 - Because we are Gifted = The Holy Spirit Can Settle these issues
- **2nd Do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? V. 4b**
 - Regarding verse 4
 - Bible students DON'T AGREE on the meaning of Paul's statement
 - 1st Some think he is using a bit of sarcasm:
 - *"You are better off asking the weakest member of your church to settle the matter, than to go before the most qualified unsaved judge!"*
 - 2nd "Who are least esteemed in by the church" to refer to the pagan judges
 - Meaning the Pagan Judges Don't Have our values

- 3rd That Paul is saying that God can use even the least member of the church to discern His will
- The result is still the same:
 - It is wrong for Christians to take their civil suits to court
 - If two Christian parties can't agree between themselves, they should ask fellow Christians to settle the matter for them, and be willing to abide by that decision
- **3rd Is there not a wise man among you:**

1 Corinthians 6:5 (NKJV)

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?

- The Corinthian Christians
 - Were not ruling themselves well...
 - They were making a spectacle of themselves before unbelievers, airing their pride, carnality, greed, and bitterness before the whole world!
- Paul was ashamed of their behavior...they knew better
 - The MARK that should most characterize Christians is love
 - But love wasn't what characterize the Corinthian brothers and sisters
 - They Were Losing their WITNESS for Christ – Because they were acting like the World

• Third: Lesson

- Fixing Things
- Over the Years I have been ask to help in this way

- Often this is what takes place in some marriage counseling.
 - One spouse is mad at the other and wants the pastor to “fix” them.
- For this to really work, several things need to be in place:
- **1st Honesty**
 - We have learned too well how to bend the truth to make things sound as if we are the good guys and everyone else is wrong.
 - I’ve had couples come in to talk, and after asking each one to tell their side of things, I wonder if I’m talking to people in the same marriage.
 - Truth is important when it comes to growing up!!!
 - Until you learn to be truly honest about yourself and about others, you aren’t going to progress in life.
 - **2nd Humility**
 - Both parties need to be willing to do whatever the arbiter decides.
 - Yet what often happens is that unless the counselor makes the other person do what you want them to do, you just leave mad.
 - Counseling with two people is not about winning a war.
 - It’s about learning to change and DO YOUR PART

The Price That Was Paid vs. 6-7a, 8

- **First: It Ruined Their Testimony & Witness vs. 6-7a**

1 Corinthians 6:6–7 (NKJV)

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?*

- **1st By settling our own disputes**
 - We give a testimony of our relationship with the Lord and of our unity, harmony, and humility before the world.
- **2nd When we go to public court, our testimony is often the opposite**
 - Christians who take fellow Christians to court lose spiritually before the case is ever heard
 - The fact that they have lawsuits at all is a sign of moral and spiritual defeat
 - A believer who takes a fellow believer to court for any reason always loses the case in God's sight
 - He has already suffered a spiritual defeat
- **3rd There should be such a difference in us, that people take notice of it**
 - And what they notice should bring glory to God!

● **Second: It Resulted In Total Compromise v. 8**

1 Corinthians 6:8 (NKJV)

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

- **1st In their desire to win,**
 - They were willing to do whatever it took
 - Even to the point of doing wrong to someone or deception

- We wind up doing wrong (hurt) to others and keep back what should be given, namely, forgiveness

The Principle That We Should Have v. 7b

1 Corinthians 6:7 (NKJV)

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?**

• First: The Right Attitude of a Christian

- **1st It's Hard to do this**
 - Our Flesh wants to WIN
 - But a lot of Christians would disagree with that because of the hardness of their hearts
 - Even when we are clearly in the legal right, we don't have the moral and spiritual right to insist on our legal right in a public court
- **2nd We Must Follow Christ**
 - **Why do you not rather accept wrong?**
 - **Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?**
 - **It is far better to lose financially than to lose spiritually**
 - **If you have been wronged in any way**
 - Our response should be to forgive
 - Put the MATTER in GOD'S HANDS
 - The Lord may give or take away
 - He is sovereign and has His will and purpose both in what we gain and in what we lose
 - We should gratefully accept that

- FORGIVE
 - When Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive a brother who sinned against him, the Lord replied, “seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:21-22), a figure that represented an unlimited amount
 - We HAVE been Forgiven MUCH so Forgive MUCH
- *Illustration: Christian Attorney’s testimony*
 - *He said that over the years he had counseled dozens of Christians to drop lawsuits against each other*
 - *In some 99% of the cases he has been successful, and he said that, without exception, those believers have been blessed*
 - *Also without exception, those who insisted on resolving their disputes in court became bitter and resentful—whether they won or lost their cases*
 - *If they went to court they always lost spiritually*
- Listen - Let It GO!!!
 - The Lord knows the needs of His children and will see that we have what we need
 - We are to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added” (Matt. 6:33)
 - *A Christian’s primary concern should not be to protect his possessions or his rights but to protect his relationship with His Lord and with his fellow believers*

God’s Purpose For Believers vs. 9-11

• First: The Consequence Of Unbelievers v. 9-10

1 Corinthians 6:9 (NKJV)

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,*

○ **1st Paul's Purpose Here**

- This man who wronged his brother sets himself in bad company –
- He puts himself in with - fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, revilers, and extortioners; and none of those who live characterized by these sins will inherit the kingdom of God.
- No doubt the man figured,
 - “Sure, what I’m doing to my brother isn’t good but it isn’t that bad.” Paul wants him to know just how bad it was.

○ **2nd Do NOT Be Deceived v. 9b**

▪ **1st "Be not deceived" (Greek: me planasthe)**

- Greek verb planao –
 - Used 43 times; the noun plane is used 10 times, and translated "deceit" of "delusion" or most commonly "error."
- Means: Literally - "Stop being deceived"

▪ **2nd The Causes of Deception**

- **Satan - Rev. 12:9; 20:3, 8, 10**

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Ephesians 2:1–2 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

- **False Prophet - Rev. 13:14; 19:20**

Revelation 13:14 (NKJV)

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

- **False Messiahs - Luke 21:8**

Luke 21:8 (NKJV)

8 And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

- **False Prophets - Matt. 24:11, 24**

Matthew 24:11 (NKJV)

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

- **Evil Men - 2 Timothy 3:13**

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV)

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- **Those who cause divisions - Romans 16:17-18**

Romans 16:17–18 (NKJV)

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

- **Sin - Romans 7:11**

Romans 7:11 (NKJV)

11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

- Yourself - Deut. 11:16; I Cor. 3:18; Gal. 6:3; James 1:26

Deuteronomy 11:16 (NKJV)

16 Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

1 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

○ **3rd The List of SINS v. 9c-10**

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV)

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.

- People who live in these kinds of lifestyles will not go to heaven.
- **Fornicators**
 - Sex outside of marriage
- **Idolaters**
 - Those who worship any false god or follow any false religious system.
- **Adulterers**
 - Specifically sinning against your marriage
- **Homosexuals - Nor Effeminate - Greek malakos –**

- Soft to the touch; effeminate; of a boy kept for homosexual relations with a man; of a male prostitute
- *"The word means "flabby"; "soft" would be the literal translation of the Greek. It is found only in two other places in the New Testament. When God sent the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist, He chose a man of the wildernesses, whose clothing was rough and whose food was locusts and wild honey-a strange, austere figure. Later, some people asked the Lord if such a man could be authentic. He had not come through the recognized religious channels of his time. Jesus turned upon them and said, "But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment?" (Luke 7: 25). That is the word. What did they expect to find, an indulgent man? Did they expect someone spineless, whose doctrine was but cold, dry bones like the other religious leader of the time? "What sort of man did you expect? Who else would be able to move a day like that for Me?" asks the Master. This exposes the whole trouble with the church at Corinth: they were just soft. They were tolerant of sin, squabbling among themselves, bogged down by carnality. There was no vision among them, no Holy Spirit dynamic. They had no conviction of their calling, no sense of discipleship, and Paul sought to recall them to this."*
- - *Royal Route to Heaven and Blessings Out of Buffetings* by Alan Redpath

- **Sodomites – Greek Arsenokoites**

- One who lies with a male as with a female, sodomite, homosexual

- **Thieves – Greek kleptes**

- An embezzler, pilferer

- **Covetous – Greek pleonektes –**

- One eager to have more, especially what belongs to others; greedy of gain, covetous

- **Drunkards – Greek methusos –**
 - Drunken, intoxicated
- **Revilers – Greek loidoros –**
 - Those who use abusive speech against others
- **Extortioners – Greek harpax**
 - Rapacious, ravenous; a extortioner, a robber
- **If a person is claiming to be a Christian,**
 - Yet is living in one of these kinds of lifestyles, continually and unrepentant
 - They need to think twice whether or not they have really come to know Jesus.
 - Paul called these things "works of the flesh" (Gal. 5:19-21)
 - Those who continue to live in a lifestyle characterized by the deeds of the flesh ought to think twice about claiming to be a Christian.

• **Second: The Change That Has Taken Place In The Believer v. 11**

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)

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.

- **1st And Such Were Some Of YOU v. 11a**
 - The Best Verse For Last
 - And Such Were Some Of YOU
 - A believer is a NEW CREATION
 - With a new inner man created by the Lord

- LIVE IN THAT NEW NATURE
- Candidly – this is a big issue with me in recovery groups
 - Once a drug addict always a drug addict – NO once saved BRAND NEW
- **2nd But you were Washed v. 11b**
 - Washed Speaks Of New Life, Of Regeneration
 - Regeneration is God’s work of re-creation

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- When a person is washed by Jesus he is born again
- **3rd but you were Sanctified v. 11c**
 - Sanctified Speaks Of New Behavior
 - SET APART
 - To be sanctified is to be made holy inwardly and to be able, in the Spirit’s power, to live a righteous life outwardly
 - In Christ we are given a new nature
 - Sin’s total domination is broken and is replaced by a life of holiness
 - You were sanctified: We are set apart, away from the world and unto God,
 - 1st By the work of Jesus on the cross (Hebrews 10:10)

Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV)

10 *By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

- 2nd By God's Word (John 17:19)

John 17:19 (NKJV)

19 *And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

- 3rd By faith in Jesus (Acts 26:18)

Acts 26:18 (NKJV)

18 *to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'*

- 4th By the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:16)

Romans 15:16 (NKJV)

16 *that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

○ **4th But you were justified v. 11d**

- Justified Speaks Of New Standing Before God
- In Christ we are clothed in His righteousness
- God now sees in us His Son's righteousness instead of our sin
- Christ's righteousness is credited to our account (Rom. 4:22-25)

Romans 4:22–25 (NKJV)

22 *And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

23 *Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him,*

24 *but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,*

25 *who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*

- We are declared and made in the new nature righteous, holy, innocent, and guiltless because God

Closing

- The application to believers is clear
 - Why would we
 - Keep living like the unsaved, the unrighteous?
 - Following old standards, and having old selfish, ungodly motives?
- We have been MADE Brand NEW
 - Live in that NEW LIFE
 - ALL for God's Glory