

The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Synopsis

**Written by the Apostle Paul
To the Church at Corinth, near Athens.**

- Chapter 1:** Division was apparent in the church.
In His great wisdom, God chose ordinary, not extraordinary, people.
- Chapter 2:** God's wisdom is communicated to inspired men in words.
- Chapter 3:** Those inspired men are servants of God, not leaders of divisions.
- Chapter 4:** Paul was qualified by a broad range of experiences to represent God.
- Chapter 5:** Besides division, they had a problem with fornication. They must act now.
- Chapter 6:** Admonitions about going to law and going to bed.

<p>Stay out of civil court.</p> <p>Saints are competent to judge these trivial cases.</p> <p>Find people at church to judge the case.</p> <p>Don't take a brother to civil court.</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 6</p> <p>1. If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?</p> <p>2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?</p> <p>3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!</p> <p>4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!</p> <p>5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?</p> <p>6 But instead, one brother goes to law against another — and this in front of unbelievers!</p>	<p>Real estate disputes were common in the Roman Empire.</p> <p>(</p> <p>We will judge the world, so develop some experience now.</p> <p>Anything else is trivial.</p> <p>Get some judges together.</p> <p>If men could live godly, then the angels don't have an excuse!</p> <p>(</p> <p>What are you really saying when you go to court with a brother?</p>
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<p>It is better to accept loss than go to court with other Christians.</p> <p>Accept unrighteousness rather than be unrighteous.</p> <p>The wicked will be lost. Don't be among them.</p> <p>God had saved them from this list of sins.</p> <p>They are new people.</p>	<p>7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?</p> <p>8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.</p> <p>9. Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders</p> <p>10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.</p> <p>11 And that is what some of you were. 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.</p>	<p>Even the fact of the lawsuit shows that both parties have failed. Picking judges is really second choice.</p> <p>They were cheating instead of allowing themselves to be cheated.</p> <p>"Inherit" the territory of the Kingdom.</p> <p>None are genetic.</p>
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<p>Paul quotes one of them.</p> <p>Then he answers.</p> <p>The stomach and food are temporary.</p> <p>Our body belongs to the Lord.</p> <p>He will raise them.</p> <p>Immorality perverts the Lord's ownership.</p> <p>Immorality is "one in body"</p> <p>Righteousness is "one in spirit"</p>	<p>12. "Everything is permissible for me" — but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me" — but I will not be mastered by anything.</p> <p>13 "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food" — but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.</p> <p>14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.</p> <p>15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!</p> <p>16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH."</p> <p>17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.</p>	<p>Evidently this rule was used to approve sexual immorality.</p> <p><u>Test:</u> Will it benefit you?</p> <p><u>Test:</u> Will it control you?</p> <p><u>Test:</u> Is it lasting?</p> <p>(</p> <p>Improper sex perverts God's purpose.</p> <p>God DID raise up Jesus.</p> <p>He WILL raise us.</p> <p>(</p> <p>Genesis 2:24.</p> <p>Romans 6:5 - At baptism.</p>
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<p>RUN! RUN! RUN!</p> <p>The Spirit lives in each believer.</p> <p>Immorality perverts God's ownership.</p>	<p>18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.</p> <p>19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;</p> <p>20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.</p>	<p>We must have strong guidelines for ourselves and our children. He sins by uniting with a prostitute.</p> <p>(The other party may be, too.) The Spirit has personality.</p> <p>☾</p> <p>We are high-priced people. Addictions, health care.</p>
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6:1 Sue! -- Sue! -- Sue! It seems to be the key word in our generation. Here is one of the reasons: Lawyers in the U.S. number 279 for each 100,000 of population. In Japan there are 11 for 100,000 population. In France there are 29 for 100,000 population. In England there are 114 for 100,000, and finally, in West Germany there are 77 for 100,000.

6:4 The Grace Brethren rented a camp ground to us and then raised the rent sharply just before camp. We would only pay what the contract called for. They had attached a small sheet saying the price could be changed without notice. They would not take us to court. We met and they wanted us to meet them half-way. I refused, but did give them a token amount. We stayed out of court because we were both playing by the same rules.

6:13 Ann Landers recently asked her readers the question: Has your sex life gone downhill since marriage?

6:14 You have probably seen such signs many times. When a company takes over another company, there is often a sign placed outside the premises announcing, "Under New Management."

No sign so accurately summarizes what takes place in Christian conversion. When Christ takes over a life, that life is literally "under new management." How hard it is to learn this lesson, and to acknowledge the new authority in our lives!

How hard it is for those who have obeyed the flesh, to obey the Lord Jesus Christ! But that is required in being a Christian.

6: 19 FORMER TOBACCO LOBBYIST TELLS TALE

Los Angeles Times

Victor Crawford's story is sadly familiar, that of a man who started smoking in his early teens and now is dying of cancer.

But Crawford stands out among the thousands who share his predicament, because he is a former lobbyist for the Tobacco Institute and has turned on his former client - speaking out against youth smoking and the tactics of the industry.

"I've got to make some amends," the 62-year-old Maryland lawyer said. "And I have heard back from my former employers that they don't think it's quite kosher to bite the hand that fed you-and they have a good point.... It's just that I think my point's more important."

Besides, "What are they going to Do, give me cancer?"

A veteran Maryland state senator, Crawford later cashed in as a lobbyist, helping the tobacco industry gut public smoking curbs. Wearing a wig to hide the baldness caused by cancer treatments, Crawford earlier this year returned to his old statehouse stomping grounds to urge support for tough workplace smoking rules.

He joined former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop in radio ads calling for a higher federal tax on cigarettes to discourage youth smoking. "I don't work for the tobacco industry anymore," he said in one ad. "I was diagnosed with throat cancer, caused by smoking. It's too late for me, but not for our kids."

While struggling to maintain his law practice, Crawford has made time for activists and officials seeking advice in the smoking wars. Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore, who has sued tobacco firms to recover state health-care costs, was a recent visitor.

Tall and gaunt, with a trial lawyer's instinct for theater, Crawford betrays little self-pity, and seems

more angry at himself than the cigarette makers.

"What the hell, it's my own fault," he said. "I was well-paid, and paid right on time.... I took their money, and I knew it was bad, (but) it was the great American Dream-who cares as long as you're making money?" Crawford's dramatic conversion has made him something of a hero to the anti-smoking cause.

"This is his finest hour," said Bruce Adams, a member of the Montgomery County, Md., county council and a tobacco foe who previously fought Crawford over anti-smoking legislation.

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