

BECOMING THE CHURCH

“How We Treat Those Who Hurt Us”

(1 Corinthians 6:1-8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Matthew 5:38-48)

Review: Church at Corinth (one foot in the world and one in the church) = they were being influenced vs. influencing

Foolishness Vs. Wisdom (Gospel & God’s Truth)

Factions and divisions Vs. Unity

Spiritual uselessness Vs. Spiritual fruit & heavenly rewards

Pride Vs. Spiritual humility

Sexual Immorality Vs. Holiness

Now, the extremely practical matters:

Main Point: The lord has called believers to a higher standard of holiness and conduct toward each other and the world. = we must act different than the lost world around us in daily matters, disagreements, and hurts!

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

Does any one of you, when he has a ¹case against ²his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the ³saints? ² Or do you not know that the ⁴saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to form* the smallest ⁵law courts? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? ⁴ So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, ⁶ do you appoint them *as judges* who are of no account in the church? ⁵ I say *this* to your shame. *Is it so, that* there is not among you anyone wise who will be able to decide between his brothers *and sisters*, ⁶ but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷ Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather suffer the wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?⁸ On the contrary, you yourselves do wrong and defraud. And this to *your brothers and sisters!*

What justice can be exacted on this earth by sinful human beings, living/working in a sinful world, & appealing to a broken human system of government? (As aliens/Strangers on this earth, we cannot be duped into thinking this world can truly offer reparation for grievances and loss that you have suffered!). **God alone is our hope.** Any justice that is had on this side of heaven is just icing on the cake; we cannot expect it or grieve the loss of it when it fails us.

Sarai – 2 yrs since her attack. We are still awaiting trial for her attacker.

Job 35:2 “Do you think this is in accordance with **justice**? Do you say, ‘My righteousness is more than God’s?’”

Job 34:12 “God certainly will not act wickedly, And the Almighty will not pervert **justice**.”

Psalms 89:14 “Righteousness and **justice** are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before You.”

Humans sin. Christians sin. Christians are at times forgetful, neglectful, and hurtful with their actions.

So how do we respond (not react)? **How do we handle grievances among other believers?**

What real rights do you have as a Believer?

(**World** says that we each have a right to be happy, to be comfortable; to be heard, to be valued no matter what we believe or how we act toward others; we have the right to “right/correct” even if we are wrong, we have a right to wealth, we have the right to success even if we don’t work for it; we have the right to equity in all things, even if we are grossly inept, unqualified, or incompetent; we have a right to be celebrated even if we state contradictory beliefs, have illogical ideas, unrealistic expectations, and lead unbiblical lives; we have the right to immediate answers, and instantaneous gratification, and personal attention; we have the right that life should be fair according my standards, that everyone should like me, agree with me, and like me on social media; we have the right that things will make us happy and more things will make us happier; that people should change based on my desires for them, and we have the right to change which rights we are owed – and we are victims and deserve compensation if we do not get what we are owed.

This is NOT what the Bible promises us are our rights. As Believers, we must think rightly, biblically & live accordingly. **Too much of this worldly thinking has entered the Church.** It is influencing your decisions/actions

What real rights do you have as a Believer?

(The U.S. Constitution says we each have a right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness) = Happiness???

What real rights do you have as a Believer?

***Bill of Rights** stress that as Americans we have the right to free speech, freedom from uncoerced or forced religion, freedom of press, to peaceably assemble, to bear arms, to petition our gov't, freedom to vote, etc.] – you don't think one political party can't overturn these rights? Take them away?

What real rights do you have as a Believer?

(Bible says **IN Christ**, we have the right of 1. Equality (we are all equally sinful; equally needy for salvation)

2. Spiritual freedom (but, to use our freedom in Christ for others - not for ourselves) 1 Pt. 2:16; Gal. 5:1-2

3. and Dignity (the sanctity of life and marriage and the Church – reflect God's Person/nature =(moral law).

The Bible declares that you have the: ...

- A. Right to **enslave** yourself to Jesus (He is your new master; He bought and redeemed you with His blood) 1 Cor. 6:19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought for a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”
- B. Right to **deny yourself** Luke 9:23-25 “And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, this is the one who will save it. ²⁵ For what good does it do a person if he gains the whole world, but loses or forfeits himself?” = Instead of demanding your earthly/American rights Jesus calls us to (Deny ourselves, to deny your rights; your dreams, your wants, your desires, your pain, your victimhood, your loss, your, your, your...) – You **BELONG** to Him now, and are to follow Him, be conformed to His image (holiness), and glorify Him with your life and your loss = He alone is WORTH it!!
- C. Right to **suffer** 1 Peter 2:20 “If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps”
-Phil. 1:29 “For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer on His behalf,”
- 2 Tim 3:12 “Indeed, all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
= “Anyone who wants to live all out for Christ is in for a lot of trouble; there's no getting around it.” (MSG)

Main Point: The lord has called believers to a higher standard of holiness and conduct toward each other and the world. = we must act different than the lost world around us in daily matters, disagreements, and hurts!

Why? Because what is at stake is **people's souls** - not your stuff

What is at stake is **God's glory** - not your happiness

What is at stake is your **Obedience** (spiritual growth) - not your comfort

In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit living IN You – and according to God's WORD = He has given us the wisdom to settle arguments, grievances, hurts, loss, and disagreements **AS A FAMILY** (God's Family).

Vs. 2.: Or do you not know that the saints [Church] will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to form the smallest law courts? ³ Do you not know that we will judge/govern angels? How much more matters of this life? (God will grant the Church to govern in the 1000 yr reign & in the New Earth)

-In Rev. 3:21 Jesus says to the saints, “The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.” We get to sit with Jesus on the throne of God, who rules the universe! Try to let that sink in.

Rev. 2:26 “The one who conquers & who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over nations.”

2 Tim. 2:12 “If we endure with him, we will also reign with him.” Jesus imparts His authority to us to reign

⁴ So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you anyone wise who will be able to decide between his brothers and sisters, ⁶ but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷ Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another.

Vs.7: Why not rather suffer the wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? For the sake of peace, the gospel.

Instead of demanding your rights, God has called us to change our thinking; to be “transformed by the renewing of our mind” – Rom. 12:2

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 “For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, ²² He who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; ²³ and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.” - Suffering loss for God’s glory is a natural part of the Christian’s life and Journey = spiritual growth. (You become more like Jesus when you suffer loss for righteousness’ sake)

Matthew 18:21-22 “Then Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how many times shall my brother sin against me and I still forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus *said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy-seven times.” Forgiving others is a natural part of the Christian’s life & journey = spiritual growth (You become more like Jesus when you forgive others for righteousness’ sake)

Matthew 5:38-48 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, do not show opposition against an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other toward him also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also. ⁴¹ Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ **But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** ⁴⁵ **so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven;** for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors, do they not do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Even the Gentiles, do they not do the same? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Loving others (even the unlovable, even the unlovely, even the unloving is a natural part of the Christian’s life & journey = sp. growth (You become more like Jesus when you love others for righteousness sake)

Remember, This time on earth is just PRACTICE for eternity

APPLICATION = Main Point: The lord has called believers to a higher standard of holiness and conduct toward each other and the world.

= There is a higher standard how we treat our fellow Christians. = According to God’s Standard, not the world’s.

- We are not to sue one another. We are not to take fellow Believers to judicial court.
- We are to seek Godly counsel or Christian arbitration – Or prayerfully give up your right to your loss/grievance for the gospel’s sake.
- We are to consider what we give up for the Lord as an honor and privilege, knowing our reward will be eternal and heavenly – not earthly gain. Phil. 3:8 “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ.”
- We are to live in such a way that when the Church (world) sees our life, they are drawn to the goodness of Jesus and not earthly justice. – He is our HOPE. Our lives and loss should point the way to Jesus!!!

2 Cor. 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”