

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

Do We Dare to Live as Unbelievers? Theme: Application of I Cor. 6

The Corinthians had a worldly focus, and in Chapter 6 Paul addresses this attitude head on: *"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?" (I Cor. 6:1)* Apparently, someone was wronged by a brother and they could not resolve the issue between themselves. Then, instead of going to another saint (God's way), they took it to the secular judicial system. In a way Paul was saying to them, 'How dare you!' How can we be wise in our daily challenges?

Example 1: A brother crashed into your car in the Church parking lot, which several saints witnessed. He wouldn't even discuss the matter, let alone make things right. Scripture teaches us how to respond: *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." (Rom. 12:17);* And, *"...In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." (II Cor. 13:1b)*

Possible option: Be honest and wise, and in love, consult eye-witnesses. Then, seek counsel through the Church to resolve issues.

Example 2: You and a few men in your assembly observed an elder being unfaithful with Church monies. Should you call the Police (unbelievers)? Should he be asked to leave? *"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine ... Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." (I Timothy 5:17,19-20)*

Possible option: Prayerfully review the facts. After presenting the issue to Church leadership, let them, in love, rebuke him 'before all.'

In each case, we are not to go to unbelievers, but look for counsel within the Church. *"If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church." (I Cor. 6:4)* God's ways are above man's ways. We have the Word of Christ dwelling in us; thus it is to be our guide in decision-making (*Phil. 3:15*).

Think on this: Life experiences are a saint's training ground for eternity. God says that He is conforming us unto Christ as we read, believe, and live out what we know. Judging between brethren is preparation for the time we have authority in heaven, even to judge angels: *"Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life (I Cor. 6:3)?* Even if uncomfortable, we're to 'work out our salvation (Christian life) in fear and trembling' (*Phil. 2:12*). As we do this walk by faith, we will learn and grow.

Allowing Yourself to be Wronged?

Letting ourselves be taken advantage of seems outrageous...why do it? It is to prefer others and manifest selfless love, which is Christ in you. Paul rebukes the Church: *"Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren." (I Cor. 6:7-8)* Do you have this type of godly love toward your brothers?

We can insist upon our rights, but should it be at the expense of another? Grace would teach us to patiently endure a wrong at times for another's good/edification. It is a spiritual adult decision; preferring exalts others, not self (*Rom. 12:10*).

Romans 12:15-21 teaches us to love, bless, and overcome evil with good, knowing God is our perfect avenger. When we realize God makes all things right, it frees us to love unconditionally, allowing God to work in us to set 'self' aside: *"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." (I Cor. 6:12)*

No, we do not need to let others walk all over us, but at times we can suffer a wrong. It is loving another more than ourself to encourage or show grace, allowing Christ's love to be held forth. **For example,** a friend barks at you without apologizing. Should they get your wrath? Should you build a case in your mind against them? Absolutely not. Instead, give them a call and ask if they're doing okay, realizing this behavior was out of character. Maybe they need love and a listening ear. *"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Gal. 5:14-17)*



Search it out!

Choose Something to Study in This Section

Study Methods: Doing a Book Survey

Examine verses!



Book survey: A survey is an examination of the major or key issues in the writing. Read and re-read a book like I Corinthians, looking at the key details to find the fullness of what God is teaching. Each time through it, look at different aspects to gain new perspectives.

This study method is one of many listed on p. 31 of "Exploring the Bible Using Study Skills" available to buy on Amazon.

1. First, as you read I Corinthians, examine the setting/background of the Church. Take time to

research the writer, Paul, and what Scripture reveals about him to understand the context.

2. Read the book again to find the main topics and key verses, words, and phrases.

3. As you reread the epistle slowly, one chapter at a time, generally answer the 'who what, when, where, why, and how questions.'

4. After reading the book several times, assign each chapter a topic, labeling the general theme. Use these topics to write an outline of the book.

*Newer students: Focus on reading Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.

I Corinthians 6:12: Freedom With Love Boundaries

(Verse is numbered below to help understanding.)

Let us take a moment to think about *I Corinthians 6:12: 1) "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient; 2) all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* Since we are to be led by the Spirit and not under the law (*Gal. 5:18*), living in this grace dispensation (*Eph. 3:2*), the term 'lawful' seems to mean something that is allowed under grace. Two other terms also need clarity: 'Expedient' means advantageous, appropriate, or practical. And, being 'under the power' relates to being addicted or dependent upon something.

Now, as we think about the meaning of this verse, it seems that we have great freedom in this dispensation of Gentile grace, yet there are some guidelines that will help us make wise decisions to please God. In the first part of this verse, Paul said that not all things would be proper to do, considering who we are in Christ. Nor would some things be a good use of our time and resources. **An example may help:** We are fully able to use all our time and money to buy things to please ourselves. Yet, as we mature to prefer others more than ourselves, we would begin to show brotherly love and use our resources for others. *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another ... Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."* (*Romans 12:10,13*)

The second section of Verse 12 relays that while we have liberty, Paul determined that he would not be controlled by anything. **For example,** grace enables us to eat or drink anything, as nothing is forbidden, and this includes alcohol. However, as we do all things 'unto the Lord,' we realize that indulging (becoming drunk or incapacitated) would not be glorifying to our Lord, nor would it be a godly witness. It could also become a stumbling block to others. *"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."* (*Rom. 14:21*)

As we acquire the mind of Christ, godly love will become our guide to use this grace freedom for the good of others' edification. *"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."* (*I Tim. 1:5*) It will help us make wise, loving decisions regarding the details of life, while glorifying God: *"...Let all things be done unto edifying."* (*I Cor. 14:26b*)

But Now...

By Erin Alexander

When studying the word of God, many will often pick verses here and there without reading the full context of the chapter. **This** is important because we as saints must do as instructed in *II Timothy 2:15*: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” We cannot accurately do that if we only pick out a few random verses.

Only reading part of what is written can cause confusion and make us question our salvation: *1 Corinthians 6:8-10*, “Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” What does this mean? Are ‘we’ going to hell? The answer is revealed as we read on in *verse 11*, “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

It’s also important to pay attention to each word written. Even small ones like ‘but,’ ‘and,’ ‘of,’ etc. Look at *Romans 3:20-21*: “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. **But now** the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;” This ‘but now’ shows that God is now doing something different. We are no longer under the law. We are saved by grace.

Angels in this Present Time of Grace

In the past, we can observe in Scripture that angels played a unique role with God’s Nation Israel. They were helpers, relayed messages from God, and taught God’s people. A few examples:

- Genesis 16:9: Teaches Hagar to submit unto Sarah.
- Exodus 14:19: Leads Israel in a pillar of a cloud.
- Numbers 22:35: God’s messenger to Balaam.
- II Kings 1:3: Angel speaking to Elijah on God’s behalf.
- Daniel 10:14: Michael teaches Daniel about the future.
- Matthew 1:20: Joseph is instructed by an angel.
- Acts 5:19: An angel opens prison doors for Peter.

Today, in this current time of Gentile grace, angels seem to have a new role. They are learning from us as they watch God work in our inner man, manifesting His glory in these earthen vessels: “*To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*” (*Ephesians 3:10*).

Why? In eternity, we will have authority over the angels, judging them. “*Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*” (*I Cor. 6:3*) God’s angels desire to understand how the Lord is working in this new dispensation of grace, as He kept it a secret until revealing it to Paul. The angels learn as they observe the Church. Satan’s angels are also curious about how saints are functioning, knowing that the Body of Christ is holding them back (letteth) until the Rapture, when the Wicked one will be revealed: “*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed...*” (*II Thess. 2:7-8a*) A few examples:

- I Cor. 4:9: We are made a spectacle to angels.
- I Cor. 11:10: Angels watching women under authority.
- I Tim. 3:16: The angels see the mystery of godliness.
- I Tim. 5:21: Paul charges Timothy before the angels.

It is sobering to know that we are being observed and teaching the angels as we yield and apply the doctrine in the details of life. This will help them in eternity as they submit to our authority over them.

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Stamp

To:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

Our Body & Spirit are For The Lord

Once we trust that Christ’s blood was a fully satisfying sacrifice unto God for all our sin, we are saved and receive many blessings. **For example**, we receive the Spirit, eternal life, and live forever with the Lord, waiting for our new resurrection body.

As believers, do we really understand that Christ’s blood purchased our spirit and body for God’s use? *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (I Corinthians 6:19-20)*

God desires for us to use this clay vessel, knowing it is His temple, and to live His Word. This produces light, power, and glory in us: *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.” (II Cor. 4:6-7)*

Romans 12:1 helps us to understand ‘how’ our body can be used for the Lord. This is a vivid picture, using an analogy of yielding our body as a living sacrifice: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”* As we live out our new life in Christ as spiritual adults under grace, we make different decisions, ones that are pleasing to God and not living after the flesh to please ourselves: *“For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another ... This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:13,16)*

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