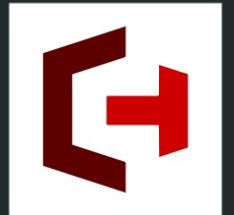


1 Corinthians

Verse by Verse



**Letter to a
Problematic
Church**



1 Corinthians 6

Letter to a Problematic Church



Introduction

The Text of
1 Corinthians 6

Conclusions

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 6



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Corinthians 6?**

Key Verse



Previously in 1 Corinthians

- So far Paul has brought up three main problems in Corinth.
 1. Divisions in the church.
 2. Admiration of worldly wisdom.
 3. Sexual sin - specifically a case of incest that the Corinthians were willing to tolerate.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 6



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Corinthians 6?**

Key Verse



What's in 1 Corinthians 6?

- Paul deals with lawsuits among believers.
- This was evidently another problem this church had.
- He then goes back to address the problem of sexual immorality, but in a more general way than in Chapter 5.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 6



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Corinthians 6?**

Key Verse



Key Verse:
1 Corinthians 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.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 6



**Previously in
1 Corinthians**

**What's in
1 Corinthians 6?**

Key Verse

1 Corinthians 6

Letter to a Problematic Church



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The Text of 1 Corinthians 6



**Lawsuits
6:1-8**

**Past and
Present
6:9-11**

**Flee from
Sexual Sin
6:12-20**



Lawsuits 6:1-8

- **6:1** The unrighteous ... the saints
- **6:2** Do you not know ... ?
- **6:4** Those who have no standing in the church
- **6:5** No one among you wise enough?
- **6:7** Already a defeat

6:1

6:2

6:4

6:5

6:7

6:1 The unrighteous ... the saints

- Paul is **not** talking about people who are especially good or especially evil.
- He is contrasting the **secular authorities** (See 6:6 "unbelievers") with the people of God - **the church**.
- **The Jews** at this time had a history of settling their disputes among themselves.
- Paul is recommending that **Christians** do the same thing.



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6:2 Do you not know ... ?

Do you
not know?
in 1 Cor 6

- Paul uses this phrase repeatedly in Chapter 6.
- These are things that Paul expected the Corinthian believers to know.
- He may have taught the church on these topics himself.
- It would be good if we too took note of them.

Do you not know? in 1 Cor 6

- **6:2** Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?
- **6:3** Do you not know that we are to judge angels?
- **6:9** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?
- **6:15** Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
- **6:16** Do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her?
- **6:19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you?

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6:7

6:4 Those who have no standing in the church

- In this case Paul is speaking of unbelievers - Again, see v. 6.
- In other words, we ought to remember that we are directly connected with the living God.
- We have no need to air our dirty laundry in front of the world and subject ourselves to the world's opinions on it.



Lawsuits 6:1-8

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6:1

6:2

6:4

6:5

6:7

6:5 No one among you wise enough?

- Paul could make a point pretty strongly when he wanted to.
- The Corinthian believers were the ones who admired the wisdom of the world.
- Do they really not have a single person in the church who might settle a dispute among brothers in the Lord?



Lawsuits 6:1-8

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6:2

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6:5

6:7

6:7 Already a defeat

- No matter who wins a lawsuit between two believers, it is already a loss that it went that far.
- It is as if family members took their issues to court rather than settle them quietly.
- It may be normal for Christians to disagree or for one person to feel unfairly treated by another.
- It should be possible, however, to settle such matters "within the family" - the people of God.



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The Text of 1 Corinthians 6



**Lawsuits
6:1-8**

**Past and
Present
6:9-11**

**Flee from
Sexual Sin
6:12-20**



Past and Present 6:9-11

Verse 9

9 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. **11** 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.

Verse 10

Verse 11

Verse 9

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,

The
Unrighteous

Deception

All This
Stuff

The Unrighteous

- The first time Paul used this term in Verse 1, he was referring to unbelievers in general.
- Now he is focusing on the usual behavior of unbelievers - perhaps especially as people acted in Corinth.

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The
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Deception

- There are always people around who seem to think that it does not matter how Christians live.
- This is plainly and simply an abuse of the grace of God.
- It is a serious form of deception when Christians begin to believe it.
- There ought to be a visible difference between the practices of believers and the practices of the world.

Verse 9

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,

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All This Stuff

- **sexually immoral** - This word is a very generic word for sexually immoral behavior.
- **idolaters** - This specifically refers to people who worship false gods. In Corinth, as in many places, this was often connected with sexual sin.
- **adulterers** - This is specifically a violation of the marriage covenant.
- **men who practice homosexuality** - Paul uses two words here, one for the more passive and one for the more active homosexual partner. (He can be rather explicit.)

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Verse 10

Verse 11

Verse 10

- **thieves, the greedy ... nor swindlers** - All three of these might directly pertain to the Corinthians who were taking one another to court.
- **drunkards** - obviously, someone who abuses alcohol. Notice that Paul (as elsewhere in Scripture) considers this a moral issue. Addictive behaviors easily cross over the line into sin.
- **revilers** - This refers to people who slander others. This reminds us to keep our criticism of others under control.
- **[None of these] will inherit the kingdom of God.** Yes you heard that right. All the more reason to watch how we act.



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Verse 11

Our Key Verse - 1 Cor 6:11

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.

What You
Once Were

What You
Are Now

2 Corinthians
5:17

What You Once Were

- Unrighteous
- Sexually Immoral
- Idolaters
- Adulterers
- Practicing Homosexuality
- Thieves
- Greedy
- Drunkards
- Revilers
- Swindlers

Our Key Verse - 1 Cor 6:11

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5:17

What You Are Now

- Washed - Made Clean
- Sanctified - Made Holy
- Justified - Made Righteous -
Contrast with "the unrighteous"
of 6:1 and 6:9.

1 John
1:6-7

Hebrews
10:12-14

Galatians
3:24

1 John 1:6-7 (ESV)

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

What You Are Now

- Washed - Made Clean
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1 John
1:6-7

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3:24

Hebrews 10:12-14 (ESV)

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering **he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

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1 John
1:6-7

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Galatians 3:24 (ESV)

So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be **justified by faith.**

What You Are Now

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Contrast with "the unrighteous"
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What You
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5:17



2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation. The old
has passed away; behold, the
new has come.

Our Key Verse - 1 Cor 6:11

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The Text of 1 Corinthians 6



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6:1-8**

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6:12-20**



Flee from Sexual Sin 6:12-20

- **6:12-13** Two Misleading Slogans
- **6:14** The Future of Our Bodies
- **6:15-18** Sex and the Spiritual Self
- **6:19-20** We Belong to God

6:12-13

6:14

6:15-18

6:19-20

6:12-13 Two Misleading Slogans

These seem to be slogans that the Corinthians were using to justify their sin.

1. "All things are lawful for me."
 2. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food."
- On the one hand Christians are not under the Old Testament law, particularly the dietary rules.
 - On the other hand these slogans - and any slogans - can easily mislead.
 - For example, "Love is love."

Proverbs
26:7 & 9

Slogans are much like proverbs. They are easy to remember, but even if they contain a truth, they can easily be misapplied.

Proverbs 26:7 & 9 (ESV)

7 Like a lame man's legs, which hang useless,
is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

9 Like a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard
is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

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6:14

6:15-18

6:19-20

6:14 The Future of Our Bodies

1 Thessalonians
4:16-18

And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

- It is simply not true that the real you is spiritual and this body is expendable like garbage.
- God created us to be physical beings.
- Thus Christ took on a human nature, body included.
- His resurrection body was somehow related to his original body - and ours will be too.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (ESV)

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

6:14 The Future of Our Bodies

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4:16-18

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6:14

6:15-18

6:19-20

6:15-18 Sex and the Spiritual Self

- No act has a bigger impact on the whole person than sex.
- Its effects are physical, mental, emotional and spiritually.
- Corinth was well-known for its prostitutes and (Surprise!) the church in Corinth was comprised of Corinthians.
- If there was an ancient city that practiced something akin to today's hookup culture this was it.
- What was damaging to the church in ancient Corinth is equally damaging to the American church today.



Flee from Sexual Sin 6:12-20

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6:19-20 We belong to God

Bondservants

Truths about Every Genuinely
Converted Christian

- The Holy Spirit indwells you.
- Christ has bought you with his own blood.
- We belong to God.
- We are his bondservants or slaves.

Bondservant - *doulos* - from Bill Mounce

Occurs 126X in the Greek New Testament

A person owned as a possession for various lengths of times (Hebrew slaves no more than seven years, Gentile slaves without time limit), of lower social status than free persons or masters; slaves could earn or purchase their freedom



Examples of
doulos in the
New
Testament

Doulos in the New Testament

Romans 1:1 Paul, a **servant** [*doulos*, bondervant, slave] of Jesus Christ

James 1:1 James, a **servant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a **servant** and apostle of Jesus Christ

Jude 1:1 Jude, a **servant** of Jesus Christ

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1 Corinthians 6

Letter to a Problematic Church



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On
Lawsuits

On
Christian
Behavior
Generally

On
Sexual Sin

Do you
not know?
in 1 Cor 6

From
Tony Evans



On Lawsuits Among Christians

- As believers we really should try our best to settle all of our *family* disputes *inside the family*.
- Paul expected the Corinthian Christians to be able to do this.
- They were immature Christians in a sue-happy culture - much like our own.
- It makes sense for us to set the same standard for ourselves.

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Tony Evans



On Christian Behavior Generally

Our Key Verse

(1 Peter 4:3-5) 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.



Key Verse:
1 Corinthians 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.



On Christian Behavior Generally

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On Sexual Sin

In countless ways, women and men defy God and confidently proclaim that they can have sex without [the traditional man-wife marital] commitment and without any destructive side-effects. Time and time again, they regret those choices. But this is not a sin we can test and then back off from; we must trust that God knows best. Once a person yields to temptation, in little or big ways, there are mental and emotional scars that may never entirely disappear, even though God's grace can bring substantial healing.



Craig Blomberg,
Denver Seminary

Conclusions



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Do you not know? in 1 Cor 6

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On
Lawsuits

On
Christian
Behavior
Generally

On
Sexual Sin

Do you
not know?
in 1 Cor 6

From
Tony Evans

Unbelievers are expected to live as unbelievers. But those who consider themselves part of God's people are expected to live as God's people. This doesn't mean that Christians never sin. Instead, it means that clear patterns of sin are not acceptable and must be confronted. To call oneself a child of God and live like a child of the devil is a contradiction.



Tony Evans
Oak Cliffe Bible Fellowship

Conclusions



On Lawsuits

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1 Corinthians 6

Letter to a Problematic Church



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**Letter to a
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