



HAMMERING IT OUT

Studies in *1 Corinthians*

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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An Inside Job 1 Corinthians 5-6



Authentic Christianity is hammered out in the details of life.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

It is hard to anticipate a theft when it is an inside job. Those on the inside know the inner workings of a company and thus it is one of the most effective ways to steal. Similarly, when there are problems in a church those on the inside are the ones most able to effectively fix them. In the study this week Paul exhorted the Corinthian church to deal with their internal problems for the glory of God. He first directed them to discipline the insiders. In their church was a man who was living with his step-mother and instead of being broken over this egregious sin they arrogantly tolerated it, probably glorying in their Christian liberty. Paul told them they should remove him, delivering him to Satan so that his spirit would be saved in the Day of judgment. This would also benefit the

church by cleaning out the influence of sin, thus allowing them to worship the Lord in truth. Members of a church cannot dissociate from sinners in the world, but it is their responsibility to lovingly remove those from their midst who will not repent. Paul then told them to decide against lawsuits. Since saints will judge the world and angels they are totally capable of deciding disputes among church members. Not only was it shameful to Paul that they would stand before worldly judges to get decisions but the very fact that they sued each other revealed misplaced values. Their unwillingness to endure mistreatment to keep from defaming the name of Christ was really a symptom of covetousness. Formerly, they were evil people; but now they had a holy

and righteous identity in Jesus, so they should act differently. Finally, Paul exhorted them to devote their bodies to the Lord. Although the body was made for sex (in marriage), it was to be devoted to the Lord first. So, they were to flee immorality and refuse to engage in prostitution, even though it was part of the religious landscape of the Corinthian culture. When one sins sexually he sins against his own body, and against the Lord since we are a temple of the Spirit. Since Jesus has bought us with His blood we should glorify Him in our bodies. This decision will change us because it is an inside job.

Study Questions for 1 Corinthians 5-6

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read 1 Cor 5:1-2. What had Paul been told (v1) and how bad was it (v1)? What did this mean? How had the church reacted (v2) and what should have been their emotional and physical response (v2)?</p>	
<p>2. From 5:3-5 how had Paul responded (v3)? What did he direct them to do (v4) and with what authority (v4)? To what did this equate (v5) and why did Paul tell them to do it (v5)?</p>	
<p>3. From 5:6-8 how had they treated this situation (v6) and why was this bad (v6)? What were they told to do (v7, 8) and why (v7, 8)? Put this in your own words.</p>	

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I Corinthians 5-6 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In 1 Cor 5:9-13 what had Paul written (9), but what did he not mean and why (v10, 13)? What did he really mean and why (v11-12)? How does Paul's quote in v13 (Deut 13:5, 21:21, 22:21) reveal the necessity of this?

5. Based on 6:1-3 what were the Corinthians doing wrong (v1) and why was this foolish (v2, 3)? What does this mean that Christians should be able to do?

6. Using 6:4-8 what should Christians not do (v6)? What should occur instead (v4-5)? What is the bigger problem (v7, 8)? How do you think the world views this?

7. From 6:9-11 who won't inherit the kingdom of God (v9-10) and how does this relate to 6:7-8? Even though we still sin, who are we really (v11)? What's the difference?

8. In 6:12-14 what are Christians free to do (v12), but what 2 limits should we observe (v12)? What is the body for (v13) and not for (v13)? What will happen to both (v13, 14)?

9. According to 6:15-17 who are our bodies joined to (v15, 17) so what does that prohibit (v15)? Why (v16)?

10. Read 6:18-20. What are we commanded (v18) and why is this so important (v18, 19)? What is our purpose, and to whom do we belong (v19, 20)? What does this mean (v20)?

11 Looking back over 1 Cor 5-6 why should the church confront blatant sin in its midst and refuse to engage in lawsuits? What should we do instead? What should be our conviction regarding sexual immorality and why?

Scripture to Remember

“Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.”

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Acting Out Conflict Resolution (*Acts 15*)

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Open by asking “what is conflict?” and sharing some situations in which it arises. How loud or long does it have to be to really bother you? How do you typically handle it?
2. Read Acts 15:1-6. What conflict arose in the early church? Do you think it was necessary, or just based on control issues? When is conflict necessary in our lives?
3. Why is trying to resolve conflict between the 2 parties involved the necessary 1st step in the process? Which of the 2 principles, talking to each other 1st and not talking about each other, are more difficult for you to follow? Why?
4. When you seek wise counsel why is it important to talk to both multiple counselors and wise counselors? Is this what we usually do—why or why not?
5. Why are “wise counselors”—those who remind us of 1) what God has said 2) what He has done and 3) what it means invaluable to godly conflict resolution?
6. Discuss how to facilitate the resolution of conflict for two persons or groups, based on the Acts 15 model—review the steps in the process. Talk about where and how you can apply that this week.
7. If time permits, talk about anything else meaningful from the message.