

Approximately Expository 35 minutes



“Bought With a Price”

1 Corinthians Chapter 6

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the powerful name of Jesus. Thank You for Your Word that corrects, cleanses, and transforms us. Holy Spirit, speak clearly today. Convict where needed.

Encourage where needed. Help us understand who we are in Christ and how we are called to live. And Lord God, if anyone listening does not yet know You, draw them to salvation today. We surrender this time to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Historical Setting:

Corinth was a city defined by tolerance and personal freedom. It was thriving, diverse, and morally liberal. Lawsuits were common. Public courts were places of entertainment. Sexual immorality was normalized, even celebrated.

Many believers in the Corinthian church had come out of that lifestyle. They were saved but still learning how to live differently.

In chapter 6, Paul addresses two major issues:

1. Believers suing one another.
2. Sexual immorality and misunderstanding of Christian freedom.

At the heart of this chapter is identity. Paul reminds them and us who we are and who we belong to.

1. Settling Disputes Among Believers:



(NIV)

1 Corinthians 6:1-8 If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? ² Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴ Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? ⁵ I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? ⁶ But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!

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? 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

Paul begins with a sharp question:

“If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people?” (v.1)


👉 Believers were suing each other in secular courts.

In Corinth, lawsuits were public events often motivated by pride and revenge.

Paul says this should not be so.

Verse 2-3 reminds them of their future:

(2) “Do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? ... (3) Do you not know that we will judge angels?....” (vv.2-3)


 If believers will one day participate in Christ’s rule, surely they can resolve small disputes now.

Verse 7 is the heart of it:

“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?” (v.7)



That challenges us.

- The world says: “Protect your rights.”
- The gospel says: “Reflect Christ.”

 Sometimes spiritual victory means surrendering personal rights for the sake of witness.

Paul isn't saying justice never matters ...
but pride and revenge must not drive
believers.

2. A Warning About Unrighteous Living:

  (NIV) **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** ⁹ ***Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 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.***

Paul shifts to a sobering warning:

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God?” (v.9)

He lists various sinful lifestyles sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, greed, drunkenness, slander, swindling.

Then comes one of the most powerful verses in the chapter:

“And that is what some of you were....”

(v.11)

Past tense.

The church in Corinth was filled with redeemed sinners.

Paul continues:

“....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.” (v.11)

Three powerful words:

- . Washed cleansed from sin.
- . Sanctified set apart for God.
- . Justified declared righteous.

🤔 This is the miracle of salvation.

👉 Christianity is not behavior modification.

👉 🔒 🔑 It is transformation.

3. Christian Freedom and the Body:


📖 + (NIV) **1 Corinthians 6:12-14** ¹² ***“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.***

Some in Corinth were saying:

“I have the right to do anything....” (v.12)

Paul responds:

“....But not everything is beneficial....” (v.12)

 Freedom in Christ does not mean we are free to live any way we want. It means we are no longer slaves to sin.

! True Christian freedom is not permission to please the flesh it is the power to honor God with our lives.


  The culture in Corinth had a bold attitude that said:

  **“I have the right to do anything.”**



But Paul answers with a stronger truth:



  **“....I will not be mastered by anything.”** (v.12)

In other words, Paul is saying:

 Just because you can do something does not mean you should.

 If something controls you, traps you, or pulls you away from Christ, then it is not freedom it is bondage.

  Real freedom is not the ability to do anything you want.

  Real freedom is when sin no longer controls you, and Jesus becomes the Lord who leads your life.

  Verse 13:

“....The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.” (v.13)

Paul is saying our bodies were not created to be used for sin. They were created to belong to the Lord and to honor Him.

The Christian life is not just spiritual on the inside. It also affects how we live on the outside.

What we do with our eyes, our hands, our words, our desires, and our physical bodies matters to God.

  Verse 14:

“By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.” (v.14)



This means our bodies are not worthless or disposable. God has a future plan for the believer’s body. Just as He raised Jesus from the dead, He will one day raise us also.

So Paul’s point is this:

- Do not treat your body like it belongs to sin.
- Do not treat your body like it has no value.

Your body belongs to Christ now, and one day it will be raised by the power of God.

4. United With Christ:

  (NIV) **1 Corinthians 6:15-17** 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!** 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.”** ¹⁷ **But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.**

  Let us get a closer look....

Paul says something astonishing:

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?....” (v.15)

Paul is reminding believers that salvation joins us to Jesus Christ.

- We do not belong to Him only on Sunday.
- We do not belong to Him only in our thoughts or beliefs.
- 👉 We belong to Him completely including our bodies.

😞 🤔 That means sexual sin is never “just physical.” It is deeply spiritual because it involves a body that now belongs to Christ.

When we use our bodies for sin, we are taking what has been joined to Jesus and using it in a way that dishonors Him.

🔒 🗝️ So Paul is saying: Remember who you are. Remember who you belong to. Your body is a member of Christ, so do not give it to anything that pulls you away from Christ.

🔍 👁️ Verse 17:

“But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.” (v.17)

! Paul is saying that the believer is spiritually joined to Jesus Christ.

- We do not belong to sin anymore.
- We belong to the Lord. Because we are united with Him, our lives should reflect Him not the culture, not the flesh, and not the sins we have been rescued from.

5. The Temple of the Holy Spirit:



(NIV)

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ¹⁸ **Flee**

from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ ***Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*** ²⁰ ***you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.***

Paul commands:

“Flee from sexual immorality....” (v.18)

  Notice...

- he doesn't say debate it.
- He doesn't say manage it.
- 👉 He says flee.

 Why?

  Verse 19:

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?....”

(v.19)

Under the Old Covenant, God's presence was connected to the temple in Jerusalem. That was the special place where sacrifices were offered and where God's glory was represented among His people.

👉 But under the New Covenant, something amazing has happened.

🔓 🗝️ Because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, God's Spirit no longer dwells in a building made by human hands. The Holy Spirit now lives inside every born-again believer.

! That means the believer's body is not ordinary. It is not meaningless. It is not ours to use however we want. We are God's temple. His Spirit lives in us, and because of that, our lives and our bodies are to be set apart for His glory.

Verse 20:

....You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (vv.19-20)

👉 This is the foundation of Christian living.

- You are not your own.
- You were bought.
- The price was the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Your body belongs to Him.
- Your life belongs to Him.
- Your choices matter.

Application for Today:

This chapter confronts modern thinking:

- . “It’s my body.”
- . “It’s my life.”
- . “As long as it doesn’t hurt anyone.”

But Scripture says:

- You are not your own.
- You were bought at a price.

Grace does not eliminate accountability.
Grace establishes new identity.

Because we are washed, sanctified, and justified

We live differently.

Not to earn salvation.

👉 But because we have it.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

Perhaps someone listening feels convicted.

Maybe your life right now matches the list of sins in verses 9-10 that we read earlier.

- Maybe you feel trapped.
- Controlled.
- Ashamed.

👉 Listen....The gospel changes everything.

- You can be washed.
- You can be sanctified.
- You can be justified.

Jesus paid the price for your sin.

- He died on the cross.
- He rose from the dead.
- He offers forgiveness and new life.


You cannot clean yourself up first.

👉 You come as you are.

But you must repent.

To be born again means:

- . Admit you are a sinner.
- . Turn from your sin.
- . Trust in Jesus Christ alone.
- . Receive His forgiveness.

If you are ready, pray from your heart right now:  Let us Pray.....



Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned.... I believe You died for me and rose again..... I turn from my sin and surrender my life to You..... Wash me... Sanctify me.... Justify me.... I receive You as my Lord and Savior Amen.

If you mean that,

- He has saved you.
- He has filled you with His Spirit.
- You are His temple.
- You will no longer be what you were.

👉 You are new.

Now go tell someone what just happened to you....

  (NIV) ***Romans 10:9 ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

Let us Pray.....

 **Closing Prayer:**

Father God, thank You that we have been bought with a price. Thank You for the blood of Jesus that washes, sanctifies, and justifies us. Guard our hearts. Guard our bodies. Help us honor You in every area of our lives.

For those who have just surrendered to You, fill them with Your Spirit. Break every chain of bondage. Establish them in freedom and holiness.

May we live not as people owned by the world, but as people purchased by Christ.

**We love You. We praise You.
In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**



Matthew 28:19-20