

From time to time, we all face irritations, difficult circumstances and temptations within the church body. Unfortunately, we do not always respond in a very Christ-like way. What should we do? How do we handle these problems?

1 Corinthians 6 discusses the issue, how to properly handle problems that arise among believers.

Be sure to pray and ask God to open your heart and mind to His thoughts and judgments. God's ways are not our ways and often do not feel good to our flesh. We must practice obedience to His word and His ways so that we respond in the way that is right. What a glorious day this is to open God's word and hear from him directly.

- 1. Read verse 1 and state briefly in your own words the issue Paul is addressing.**
- 2. With a highlighter mark every use of the word judge, judged, judgments in verses 1-6. If you do not have a highlighter simply circle it.**
- 3. Notice the two groups mentioned as possible judges of this dispute. Underline them in verse 1.**
- 4. Write a brief description of these two groups. Who are they?**
- 5. Who is the dispute between in verse 1?**
- 6. What does verse 2, Matt. 19:28 and Rev. 3:21 clearly teach?**
 - **Matthew 19:28** "Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

- **Rev. 3:21** “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

7. What does verse 3 reveal?

8. What is God’s purpose for angels?

- **Heb. 1:14** “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”

9. Look back at 1 Cor. 2:15-16. What do those who are spiritually mature have that enables them to make wise decisions and render proper judgments?

10. Verse 4 very clearly lays out what we are to do if we have disputes or problems between believers.

- **Matt. 18:15-17** "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. **16** But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' **17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

11. How had the believers in Corinth previously been handling their quarrels and disputes? Vss.5-6

12. What does Paul offer as a better alternative in verse 7?

13. Does this seem like an odd way to handle the matter to you?

14. Read Matt. 5:39-48. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount what is the unusual behavior we are instructed to carry out?

15. According to verses 9-10 who will not inherit the kingdom of God? Write out the list:

This refers to those who live a habitual unrepentant lifestyle like this. A believer of course can commit these sins but their spirit will be troubled by it. This would reveal much about whose they really are if one is living a life characterized by these sins.

16. Now read Matthew 5:3,10; who will inherit the kingdom of God?

God's way of living usually contradicts the worlds. If we want to live a life pleasing to God we must be ready to say and do what seems strange at times.

17. Write Matthew 5:3, 10 personalized in your own words.

18. According to what you have seen so far, as believers, what is our response to be when others take from us-_____, when others act hatefully toward us-_____, others treat us unfairly-_____.

19. Whose example will we be following?

20. According to Heb.4:15 how did he respond?

- Heb.4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin."

21. Do you see the difference between being tempted and sinning?

The Greek word translated "tempted" (peirazo) can refer either to temptation intended to bring one down or to testing designed to build one up.

22. What is the key to a victorious life according to Heb. 4:16?

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

23. According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, at one time believers were just like those mentioned in verse 9-10. What is different now? What has happened to bring this change? First underline the changes in the text then define in your own words what has happened?

24. Read 1 Cor. 6:12 and then go back and read Gal. 5:13. The believers in Corinth were doing the same thing that Paul had warned the Galatian believers not to do. What was it?

- Gal. 5:13 “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”

The price of our sin is not always quickly seen. But all sin has a cost. When we give into sin in any way it costs us power in our walk.

25. What does Paul say in vs.12 that he does not want to happen to him again? Look up the scriptures below and paraphrase them.

- Rom. 6:6
- Rom.6:12-22
- Rom. 12:1-2

26. According to verse 12 what is a believer free to do?

27. Why is it crucial that we consider carefully our actions if freedom is a mark of the Christian faith?

29. What is the warning in 1 Peter 5:8?

There was a large temple in the city of Corinth at that time dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite. This temple employed over a thousand prostitutes as priestesses. Sex was part of their worship ritual. This was never God’s plan for man and woman. This is a distortion of God’s beautiful creation.

- 30. Read Paul's warning to them in verses 15-18. What do you suppose they were participating in for Paul to feel the need to speak to them like this?**

Now read two very important verses, verse 19-20.

- 31. What is a believer's body?**
- 32. What has happened to a believer that changes everything for us?**
- 33. What are we to do in response to this great love that has been shown us?**
- 34. After reading this chapter what are some of the points you need to go back and focus on?**
- 35. How do you handle your disputes with other believers?**
- 36. Do you remember what you were before Christ came into your life and forgave your sins?**
- 37. Why would it be important for us to remember who we were when Christ forgave us?**
- 38. It is true we are free in Christ, but how are we to live this out?**
- 39. As joint-heirs with Christ who do we belong to?**
- 40. In what way is your life revealing the freedom in Christ to the glory of God?**