

1 Corinthians: Harmony in Diversity
Daily Bible Study Guide
Week 3 (#3 of 7) - I Corinthians 6-8

Each time before you read & study, take a moment to ask God to speak to you through the Word and the Holy Spirit.

Monday: Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Paul seems to be talking here about property cases rather than criminal cases (see vs. 2 “trivial cases” and vs.7 “..rather be cheated”). In ancient times it seems the church did negotiate easy cases, which churches do not do today. But taking the posture of forgiveness in some cases rather than choosing to file a lawsuit is still something we are encouraged to consider,

1. What were the believers in those days doing to one another through these lawsuits (vs. 8)?
2. Think about disputes we might have with other believers on “ordinary matters”. How can we work out our differences in a way that embraces community?

Tuesday: Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“Yield your bodies and all their members, as well as your souls and all their faculties, as instruments of righteousness to God. Devote and employ all ye have, and all ye are, entirely, unreservedly and forever to his glory.” Wesley’s *Notes*, 6:20 This is certainly a tall order. Just reaching toward it does help us get closer.

1. As a believer, what is something lawful for you, but not very beneficial?
2. Read also Exodus 40:1-15. Does any of this remind you of worship today and how we present ourselves? How does this relate to our bodies being a temple of the Holy Spirit (vs. 19)?

Wednesday: Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

This part of the letter is a response to specific matters raised in another previous letter the Corinthian church sent to Paul that we don’t have any more (vs.1). The things Paul addresses here are not

“burn at the stake” issues, but are judgement calls and wisdom issues that helped the church at Corinth.

1. Do any of these judgement calls help you today?
2. What potential dangers are there for the Christian community when we turn judgement calls into prescriptive principles that we enforce on everyone?

Thursday: Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-40

It seems strange that Paul talks about circumcision and slavery here in the middle of a chapter on marriage and intimacy. He uses them to illustrate the larger point he is making and which he repeats three times: don’t try to change the status you had when you became a Christian.

1. What sudden and impulsive life changes might a person in Paul’s day have made when they became a believer?
2. It’s obvious Paul thought Jesus’ return would happen shortly (vs. 29). In your everyday life, if you give any thought to our Lord’s return, what are some practical results of this in your decision-making?

Friday: Read 1 Corinthians 8

The Jewish sacrificial system and the pagan system had one thing in common: only a small portion of the animal was given away. Most of it went back to the donor, who used the meat as long as it lasted and sometimes sold it to the marketplace. Buyers never knew if the food had been offered to gods like Jupiter earlier that morning.

1. What do you think Paul means when he says love is more important than “knowledge” in guiding how Christians should act (vs. 1-3)?
2. Do you feel free to do certain things other Christians consider wrong? Do you refrain from things other believers say is ok?