

Lesson 7:

"Dare any of you...go to law before the unrighteous...?"

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?" [1 Cor 6:1-6]

1) How does the next subject Paul addresses relate to the one he has just admonished the Corinthians about? [6:1-4; cp 5:12-13]

-- What does Paul incredulously say they are guilty of doing? [6:1; cp 6:6]

-- In a case where one brother has a matter against another, what SHOULD the Corinthians have been doing? [6:1; cp Matt 18:15-20]

- What principle in scriptures like 2 Tim 3:16-17, 1 Cor 2:16, Rom 15:4; 2 Pt 1:2-4 and others SHOULD have governed the actions of the Corinthians (and ours!)?

2) What does Paul affirm that the Corinthians should already know about the saints? [6:2a]

-- What is ironic about Paul using the phrase "Do you not know?" so many times in this chapter? [6:2; see also 6:3, 9, 15, 16, 19; cp 2:15-16; 3:1, 18-20; 4:10, 18; 5:6, 12-13; etc]

-- What, then, is so illogical (unwise!?) about their practice in this matter? [6:2b]

3) What second thing does Paul affirm that the Corinthians should already have known? [6:3a]

-- Since this is true, what is so illogical about their current practice with regard to this case where one brother has a matter against another? [6:3b]

-- What, exactly, does Paul say they were doing in this case? [6:4; cp 1:20-21; 2:7-8; etc]

- Just to be clear, who are "those least esteemed by the church", whom Paul says the Corinthians have "appointed" as judges? [6:4; cp 6:1, 6]

4) According to Paul, how should the Corinthians feel upon hearing all he has said to them? [6:5a]

-- What question does Paul ask of them, again expressing unbelief? [6:5b; cp 2:16; 4:10; etc]

5) From what we know of Paul himself, does it appear that he is condemning *the court system* in and of itself, or is there something else of which Paul is being critical? [cp Rom 13:1-4; Acts 26; etc]

"Do you not know...the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" [1 Cor 6:7-11]

1) What is Paul's strong conclusion regarding them in this matter? [6:7]

-- In the next couple of questions (6:7b-c), Paul does not address the "right" or "wrong" of the issue that led two brothers to court – rather, he addresses the wrong attitude that has led them to deal with it improperly! In light of their "utter failure" because they couldn't resolve this matter among themselves, what would have been a BETTER option for them than to take the matter before gentiles? [6:7b-c]

-- However, in taking this matter before gentiles, what does Paul say they are essentially doing to their brothers in Christ? [6:8]

2) We often quote 1 Corinthians 6:9 (and the following verses) out of context. What does this verse have to do with the argument Paul is making here? [6:9a; cp 6:1, 6]

-- Why, then, is it illogical they should take this case before the unrighteous? [6:9]

-- What, however, would qualify THEM to handle this case between brethren? [6:11]

Special application of truths inherent in Paul's argument [6:9-11]

3) As Paul describes the unrighteous (whom the Corinthians have asked to be their judges!), what does he say will be their fate? [9:9-10]

-- What is the common thread that binds the first list of sins? [9:9; "idolaters" seems to be out of place here, but in the Corinthian context, it is very fitting! (note 6:15-19; etc)]

-- What kinds of sin are found in the second list? [9:10]

4) What does Paul declare regarding the former state of some of the Corinthians? [6:11]

-- What THREE things does Paul say happened to the Corinthians to change that state? [6:11]

-- Considering the context, what is the importance of declaring that the Corinthians have been "justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the spirit of our God"? [6:11]