

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****I CORINTHIANS 6*****I Corinthians 6***

Paul answered the first of the questions asked by the Corinthians in chapter five concerning a moral dilemma and how the early church would handle it. It is critical in examining all of the questions asked to the Apostle Paul that we remember he is addressing a local assembly. Everything must be looked at in that primary context. Church discipline is only related to the people over whom a church has jurisdiction and the degree that which the person being disciplined is willing to submit to correction for redemption. All church discipline in the scriptures is redemptive in nature, not punitive. The gross violation of morality that is spoken of in chapter five is handled within the purview of redeeming the wayward member and bringing honor, not shame, to the body of Christ.

Chapter six answers a question from the Corinthians about lawsuits within the body of believers and the members of the fellowship taking each other to court. Paul speaks to this and asks a question back to the church. ***"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by***

***the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!"*** (I Corinthians 6:1-6)

Paul goes on to say that believers should not always do what they have a **right to do**, but to the contrary, **followers of Jesus should always do the right thing**. In speaking of this, he states two of the several principles we should follow in our dealings with one another and with those who are weak in the faith. ***"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."*** (I Corinthians 6:12)

**Principle one:** *All things are lawful for me, but all things do not help, are advantageous, or the right thing to do.*

**Principle two:** *All things are lawful for me, but nothing should have control of us to the point that we cannot do the right thing toward others.*

There are six such principles that guide moral and ethical conduct toward each other throughout I Corinthians.

***Prayer and Action Steps***

*You and I are not independent in how we approach life as followers of Jesus. God saved us and redeemed us for community, to love each other, and to do what is best for the other person and not always for ourselves. May the Lord help us to be others minded. Amen*