CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

1 Corinthians Chapter 6 — Glorify God in Your Body

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

1 Corinthians Chapter 6 continues Paul's call for the church to live as God's holy people.

In Chapter 5, Paul dealt with a man living in sexual sin while the church did nothing.

Now he turns to two more problems.

The first was in the courtroom.

Believers were suing one another in the public courts of Corinth.

They were taking their quarrels in front of unbelieving judges.

The whole city could see Christians fighting with Christians.

Paul is shocked.

The saints will one day judge the world and even angels.

Could they not settle small matters among themselves?

Better to be wronged than to dishonor Christ in front of the world.

The second problem was in the bedroom.

Some in Corinth had taken the gospel of grace and twisted it.

They had slogans:

“All things are lawful for me.”

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food.”

They reasoned that the body did not matter.

If eating is just a natural appetite, then so is sex.

So some were going to prostitutes and calling it freedom.

Paul answers with some of the most important teaching in the Bible about the human body.

The body is not meant for sexual immorality.

The body is meant for the Lord.

God will raise it from the dead.

It is joined to Christ.

It is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

And it was bought with a price.

In the middle of the chapter stands one of the most hopeful verses in Scripture.

After listing the sins that keep people out of God's kingdom, Paul says:

“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified.”

No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.

The chapter moves through four movements:

- Lawsuits Among Believers (verses 1–6).
- Wronging Your Own Brethren (verses 7–8).
- The Warning Against Unrighteousness (verses 9–11).
- Glorifying God With the Body (verses 12–20).

The central truth of 1 Corinthians 6 is:

Believers have been washed, sanctified, and justified through Christ, and because they were bought with a price, they belong to God and must glorify Him in how they treat one another and in how they use their bodies.

I. HOW DARE YOU?

1 Corinthians 6:1 — Before the Unrighteous

“How dare any of you, when you have a dispute with another, take it before the unrighteous and not before the saints?”

Paul opens with a strong question.

“How dare any of you?”

He is not asking politely.

He is shocked.

Some believers had disputes with other believers.

Most likely these were disagreements about money, property, or business.

Instead of settling them within the church, they were taking them to the public courts.

In Corinth, the courts were run by unbelievers.

Wealthy and powerful people often had the advantage.

Lawsuits were also a public show, where people tried to shame their opponents.

Paul calls the judges **“the unrighteous.”**

He does not mean they were all corrupt.

He means they did not know God and were not part of His people.

The church is called **“the saints.”**

God's holy people should be able to settle their own disagreements.

Cross References

Matthew 5:40

> If someone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat too.

Proverbs 25:9

> Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not tell another person's secret.

Matthew 18:15

> If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the wrong, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them back.

Spiritual Principle

Disputes between believers should be handled within the family of God, not paraded before the world.

Application

If you have a conflict with another believer, go to them first.

Seek peace before you seek a verdict.

II. THE SAINTS WILL JUDGE THE WORLD

1 Corinthians 6:2 — Competent for Trivial Cases

“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?”

Paul asks a question he will ask six times in this chapter:

“Do you not know?”

The Corinthians were proud of their knowledge.

But they were forgetting basic truths.

Here is the first:

“The saints will judge the world.”

When Christ returns, His people will share in His reign.

They will take part in His righteous judgment of the world.

If God has given believers such a great future role, then surely they can handle the **“trivial cases”** of this life.

Compared to judging the world, a dispute over money or property is very small.

Cross References

Daniel 7:22

> until the Ancient of Days came and judged in favor of the holy people of the Most High. Then the time came for the holy people to receive the kingdom.

Revelation 20:4

> Then I saw thrones, and those who sat on them were given authority to judge. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Matthew 19:28

> Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, when the world is made new and 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.”

Spiritual Principle

Remembering our future helps us handle the present wisely.

Key Truth

Believers are destined to reign with Christ.

That should change how we handle our disagreements today.

III. WE WILL JUDGE ANGELS

1 Corinthians 6:3 — How Much More the Matters of This Life

“Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the matters of this life!”

Paul goes even further.

“We will judge angels.”

This most likely refers to the fallen angels who rebelled against God.

At the final judgment, believers will share in Christ's judgment over them.

It is an astonishing thought.

Redeemed sinners will one day take part in judging spiritual beings.

If that is our future, then **“how much more the matters of this life!”**

Everyday disputes about money and property should not be beyond our ability.

Cross References

2 Peter 2:4

> God did not spare the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell and put them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment.

Jude 1:6

> And the angels who did not stay within their proper authority but left their own home—God has kept them in eternal chains in darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Revelation 20:10

> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Spiritual Principle

God has given His people a high calling, and they should live up to it.

Application

When a disagreement feels huge, remember what God has prepared for you.

It may help you see how small the matter really is.

IV. JUDGES OF NO ACCOUNT

1 Corinthians 6:4 — Who Are You Appointing?

“If you have disputes about such matters, do you appoint as judges those who are of no account in the church?”

This verse can be understood in two ways.

Some see it as a reference to the pagan judges.

They had no standing in the church.

So why would believers place their disputes in their hands?

Others see it as sharp irony.

Paul may be saying, **“Even the least respected members of the church would be better judges than outsiders.”**

Either way, Paul's point is the same.

The church should not hand its family matters over to those who do not know God.

God has given His people wisdom through His Spirit and His word.

Cross References

James 2:6

> But you have treated the poor with dishonor. Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court?

Deuteronomy 1:16

> At that time I gave your judges this command: “Listen to the cases between your fellow Israelites and judge fairly, whether the case is between two Israelites or between an Israelite and a foreigner living among you.”

Exodus 18:21

> But choose capable men from all the people—men who respect God, who are trustworthy, and who hate dishonest gain. Put them in charge of groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.

Spiritual Principle

God's people should look to godly wisdom to settle their disputes.

Key Truth

God has always provided wise people among His people to help settle disagreements.

V. IS THERE NO ONE WISE ENOUGH?

1 Corinthians 6:5 — "I Say This to Your Shame"

"I say this to your shame. Is there really no one among you wise enough to judge between his brothers?"

In Chapter 4, Paul said he was not writing to shame them.

But here he does say:

"I say this to your shame."

Their behavior was truly shameful.

And he asks a cutting question.

"Is there really no one among you wise enough?"

Remember how proud the Corinthians were of their wisdom.

They boasted about their knowledge.

They admired clever speakers.

Yet when a real problem came up, they could not find one wise person in the whole church to help two brothers make peace.

Their wisdom was all talk.

Cross References

James 3:13

> Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show it by his good life, by actions done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

1 Kings 3:9

> So give Your servant an understanding heart to govern Your people and to know the difference between good and evil. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours?

Proverbs 20:3

> It is honorable for a person to stay out of a fight, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Spiritual Principle

True wisdom is shown in making peace, not in winning arguments.

Application

Ask God to make you the kind of believer who can help others settle their differences.

VI. BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER

1 Corinthians 6:6 — In Front of Unbelievers

“But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!”

Paul states the problem plainly.

“One brother takes another to court.”

Members of the same spiritual family were suing each other.

“And this in front of unbelievers!”

This made it even worse.

The church was supposed to show the world a new kind of community.

A family where love, forgiveness, and peace ruled.

Instead, the world saw Christians fighting like everyone else.

The gospel was being dishonored in public.

Cross References

Matthew 5:25

> Settle matters quickly with the person who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison.

Proverbs 25:9

> Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not tell another person's secret.

Luke 12:58

> As you are going with your opponent to the judge, try hard to settle with him on the way. Otherwise he may drag you before the judge, the judge may hand you over to the officer, and the officer may throw you into prison.

Spiritual Principle

The way believers treat one another is a testimony to the watching world.

Key Truth

Jesus said the world would know His disciples by their love for one another.

VII. ALREADY DEFEATED

1 Corinthians 6:7 — Why Not Rather Be Wronged?

"The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have already been defeated. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?"

Paul says something surprising.

Even if a believer won the lawsuit, he had **"already been defeated."**

Why?

Because the real loss was not money.

It was love.

It was the unity of the church.

It was the testimony of Christ before the world.

Then Paul asks two challenging questions.

"Why not rather be wronged?"

"Why not rather be cheated?"

This is the way of Jesus.

He was wronged, and He did not fight back.

Paul is saying it is better to lose something in this world than to lose your witness for Christ.

This does not mean Christians can never seek justice.

Paul himself appealed to Roman law to protect his rights.

But between believers, the goal should be peace, not victory.

Cross References

Matthew 5:39

> But I tell you, do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn the other cheek to him as well.

Romans 12:19

> Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to God, because Scripture says, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord.

1 Peter 2:23

> When people insulted Him, He did not insult them back. When He suffered, He did not threaten. Instead, He trusted Himself to God, who judges fairly.

Spiritual Principle

It is better to be wronged than to win at the cost of Christ's honor.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You can win the case and lose the brother; it is better to lose the case and keep the brother.

VIII. YOU DO WRONG YOURSELVES

1 Corinthians 6:8 — Cheating Your Own Family

“Instead, you yourselves do wrong and cheat—and you do this to your own brothers and sisters!”

Paul turns the tables.

The Corinthians were not just victims.

Some of them were the ones doing the wrong.

They were cheating.

And they were cheating **“your own brothers and sisters!”**

Instead of being willing to suffer wrong, they were causing it.

Instead of protecting their spiritual family, they were taking advantage of it.

The problem was not just the courts.

The problem was their hearts.

Cross References

James 5:4

> Look! The wages you held back from the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of Armies.

Leviticus 19:13

> Do not cheat or rob your neighbor. Do not hold back a hired worker's pay overnight.

1 Thessalonians 4:6

> No one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord punishes all such sins, as we already told you and warned you.

Spiritual Principle

Believers must never take advantage of one another.

Application

Is there anyone in your church family you have treated unfairly?

Make it right.

IX. DO NOT BE DECEIVED

1 Corinthians 6:9 — The Unrighteous Will Not Inherit the Kingdom

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,”

Paul now gives a solemn warning.

“The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

He has just said the Corinthians were doing wrong.

Now he reminds them where a life of wrongdoing leads.

Then he adds:

“Do not be deceived.”

Some in Corinth were deceiving themselves.

They thought they could claim Christ and keep living in sin.

Paul begins a list of sins that mark the unrighteous.

The sexually immoral—those who practice sexual sin of any kind outside of marriage.

Idolaters—those who worship anything other than the true God.

Adulterers—those who are unfaithful to their marriage vows.

Men who practice homosexuality—the words Paul uses here describe men taking part in sexual relations with other men.

The key word in this list is **practice.**

Paul is describing people whose lives are marked by these sins and who continue in them without repentance.

He is not saying that every believer who is tempted or who has fallen is beyond hope.

The very next verses show that God's grace reaches people from every one of these backgrounds.

Cross References

Galatians 5:19

> The works of the flesh are plain to see: sexual sin, impurity, and shameless living,

Ephesians 5:5

> You can be sure of this: no sexually immoral, impure, or greedy person—a greedy person is really an idol worshiper—has any share in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Revelation 22:15

> Outside the city are the dogs, those who practice witchcraft, the sexually immoral, murderers, idol worshipers, and everyone who loves and practices lies.

Spiritual Principle

A life that continues in sin without repentance is not a life that belongs to God's kingdom.

Spiritual Warning

Do not deceive yourself into thinking you can claim Christ while refusing to turn from sin.

X. NOR THIEVES, NOR THE GREEDY

1 Corinthians 6:10 — The List Continues

"nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

Paul finishes the list.

Thieves—those who take what belongs to others.

The greedy—those who always want more and grab for themselves.

Drunkards—those whose lives are controlled by alcohol.

Revilers—those who attack others with insulting and abusive words.

Swindlers—those who cheat people out of what is theirs.

Notice how broad this list is.

It includes sexual sins.

But it also includes greed, drunkenness, harsh words, and cheating.

Many people who would never commit one sin on the list are guilty of another.

No one can look at this list and feel superior.

Notice also that **the greedy** and **swindlers** connect directly to the lawsuits Paul just addressed.

The Corinthians who were cheating their brothers needed to hear this warning too.

Cross References

Galatians 5:21

> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Isaiah 5:11

> How terrible for those who get up early in the morning to chase after strong drink, and who stay up late at night until wine sets them on fire!

Proverbs 23:21

Drunkards and gluttons will become poor, and too much sleep will dress them in rags.

Spiritual Principle

Every kind of sin, not only one kind, separates people from God.

Key Truth

This list is not for pointing fingers at others.

It is a mirror for every one of us.

XI. BUT YOU WERE WASHED

1 Corinthians 6:11 — "And That Is What Some of You Were"

"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."

This is one of the most hopeful verses in the Bible.

"And that is what some of you were."

The church in Corinth was full of people who had once lived the very lives Paul just described.

Former idol worshipers.

Former adulterers.

Former thieves and drunkards.

People who had lived in every kind of sexual sin.

But notice the word **"were."**

That was their past.

It was no longer their identity.

Then come three great words of grace:

"You were washed." God cleansed them from the filth of their sin.

"You were sanctified." God set them apart as His own holy people.

"You were justified." God declared them righteous in His sight because of Christ.

And all of it happened **“in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”**

Their change was not self-improvement.

It was the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Cross References

Titus 3:5

> He saved us, not because of the good things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us by the washing of new birth and by the new life the Holy Spirit gives.

Acts 22:16

> And now, why wait? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.

Ephesians 5:26

> to make the church holy, cleansing her by washing her with water through the word.

Spiritual Principle

No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Your past may describe what you were, but in Christ it does not define who you are.

Application

If you belong to Christ, do not go back to what you were.

Live as one who has been washed.

XII. ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL?

1 Corinthians 6:12 — Not Mastered by Anything

“All things are lawful for me”—but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

Paul now turns to a slogan the Corinthians were using.

“All things are lawful for me.”

Paul may have said something like this himself when teaching about freedom in Christ.

But the Corinthians had twisted it into an excuse for sin.

They were saying, **“I am free. I can do anything I want.”**

Paul answers the slogan twice.

First:

“But not all things are beneficial.”

Just because something is allowed does not mean it is good for you.

Second:

“But I will not be mastered by anything.”

There is a play on words in the original language.

“All things are within my power, but I will not be brought under the power of anything.”

The freedom the Corinthians boasted about was leading them into slavery.

A person who does whatever he wants soon finds he cannot stop.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 10:23

> “Everything is allowed,” but not everything is good for us. “Everything is allowed,” but not everything builds others up.

John 8:34

> Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

Titus 3:3

> At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, and led astray. We were slaves to all kinds of desires and pleasures. We lived in evil and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Spiritual Principle

True freedom is not doing whatever you want; it is being free from the power of sin.

Application

Ask two questions about any choice:

Is it helpful?

Could it control me?

XIII. FOOD FOR THE STOMACH

1 Corinthians 6:13 — The Body Is for the Lord

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

Paul quotes another Corinthian slogan.

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food.”

The Corinthians were using this to argue that physical appetites do not matter spiritually.

When you are hungry, you eat.

And some were saying, **“When you have sexual desire, you satisfy it.”**

Paul agrees that food and the stomach are temporary.

“God will destroy both one and the other.”

But he refuses to make the jump to sex.

“The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord.”

The body is not just a bundle of appetites.

It was made for God.

And then a beautiful phrase:

“And the Lord for the body.”

The Lord cares about our bodies.

He made them.

He redeemed them.

He will raise them.

Cross References

Colossians 2:22

> These rules are about things that are all meant to be used up and gone. They are based only on human commands and teachings.

Romans 14:17

> For the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking. It is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

> It is God's will that you be holy: stay away from sexual sin.

Spiritual Principle

The body matters to God, and what we do with it matters to God.

Key Truth

Sex is not just an appetite like hunger.

It involves the whole person, and God designed it for marriage.

XIV. GOD WILL RAISE US UP

1 Corinthians 6:14 — The Future of the Body

“And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.”

Here is the reason the body matters so much.

It has a future.

“God raised the Lord.”

Jesus rose from the dead in a real body.

“And will also raise us up.”

One day, God will raise the bodies of His people too.

The Corinthians thought the body was temporary and unimportant.

Paul says the body is going to be raised.

What God plans to raise, we must not treat as worthless.

Paul will explain the resurrection of the body in great detail in Chapter 15.

Cross References

Romans 8:11

> If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

2 Corinthians 4:14

> We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence.

Romans 6:5

> If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

Spiritual Principle

The body is not a throwaway shell; it is destined for resurrection.

Application

Treat your body as something God values enough to raise from the dead.

XV. MEMBERS OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 6:15 — "Never!"

"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!"

Paul asks another **"Do you not know?"** question.

"Your bodies are members of Christ."

Believers are joined to Christ.

Not just their souls.

Their bodies too.

Their hands, their feet, their eyes, their whole selves belong to Him.

Prostitution was common in Corinth.

Some believers were apparently visiting prostitutes and thinking it did not matter.

Paul pictures what they were doing.

Taking a part of Christ's body and joining it to a prostitute.

And he answers with the strongest word he could use:

“Never!”

It is unthinkable.

Cross References

Romans 12:5

> In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and each of us belongs to all the others.

Ephesians 5:30

> because we are parts of His body.

1 Corinthians 12:27

> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Spiritual Principle

Because our bodies belong to Christ, sexual sin drags Christ's members into impurity.

Key Truth

Wherever your body goes, you take a member of Christ with you.

XVI. ONE BODY, ONE FLESH

1 Corinthians 6:16 — “The Two Will Become One Flesh”

“Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.””

Paul explains why sexual sin is so serious.

Sex is not a meaningless physical act.

It creates a deep union between two people.

Paul quotes Genesis 2:24.

“The two will become one flesh.”

God spoke these words about marriage.

In marriage, sex expresses and deepens a lifelong covenant union.

But even outside marriage, sex still joins two people in a real way.

That is why a man who unites with a prostitute **“becomes one body with her.”**

He is joining himself to someone in a way God meant only for marriage.

Cross References

Genesis 2:24

> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two become one flesh.

Matthew 19:5

> and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Ephesians 5:31

> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Spiritual Principle

God designed sexual union to belong only within the covenant of marriage.

Key Truth

There is no such thing as casual sex in God's eyes.

It always joins people together.

XVII. ONE SPIRIT WITH THE LORD

1 Corinthians 6:17 — A Deeper Union

“But whoever is united with the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

Paul now contrasts two kinds of union.

Union with a prostitute makes a person **one body** with her.

Union with the Lord makes a person **one spirit** with Him.

This is the deepest union possible.

Through the Holy Spirit, the believer is joined to Christ in a way that nothing else can match.

Christ's life flows into the believer.

And because of this union, the believer cannot join himself to sin without bringing that sin into his relationship with the Lord.

Cross References

John 17:21

> I pray that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world will believe that You sent Me.

Romans 8:9

> But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.

Ephesians 4:4

> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

Spiritual Principle

The believer's union with Christ is deeper than any human relationship.

Key Truth

You are joined to the Lord.

Let that union shape every other relationship in your life.

XVIII. FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY

1 Corinthians 6:18 — A Sin Against Your Own Body

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but whoever sins sexually sins against their own body.”

Paul gives a direct command.

“Flee.”

He does not say, **“Debate it.”**

He does not say, **“See how close you can get.”**

He says, **“Run.”**

Joseph is the great example.

When Potiphar's wife grabbed him, he did not stay and argue.

He ran out of the house.

Then Paul explains why sexual sin is unique.

Other sins affect the body from the outside.

But sexual sin is a sin **“against their own body.”**

It involves the whole person in a deep way.

It damages the very body that belongs to the Lord and is joined to Him.

Cross References

Genesis 39:12

> She grabbed him by his cloak and said, “Sleep with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

2 Timothy 2:22

> Run away from the evil desires of youth. Chase after righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

> It is God's will that you be holy: stay away from sexual sin.

Spiritual Principle

Some temptations are not meant to be fought but fled.

Application

Know where you are weak.

Set up guards before temptation comes.

And when it comes, run.

XIX. A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 6:19 — "You Are Not Your Own"

"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own,"

Paul asks his final **"Do you not know?"** question.

In Chapter 3, Paul said the church together is God's temple.

Now he applies the same truth to each believer.

"Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit."

Corinth was full of temples to false gods.

Some of them were connected with sexual immorality.

But the believer's body is a temple of the living God.

The Holy Spirit lives there.

He was **"received from God."**

And this leads to a life-changing truth:

"You are not your own."

The Corinthians said, **"All things are lawful for me."**

Paul says, **"You don't even belong to yourself."**

Your body is God's house.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 3:16

> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives among you?

John 2:21

> But the temple He was talking about was His body.

2 Corinthians 6:16

> What agreement can God's temple have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: “I will live with them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be My people.”

Spiritual Principle

The believer's body is a holy place where God Himself dwells.

Key Truth

You do not carry your body around as your own property.

You carry it as God's temple.

XX. BOUGHT WITH A PRICE

1 Corinthians 6:20 — Glorify God with Your Body

“for you were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God with your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Why are we not our own?

“For you were bought with a price.”

Corinth had a busy slave market.

Everyone understood what it meant to be bought.

A slave who was purchased belonged to his new master.

Believers were once slaves to sin.

But Jesus paid the price to set them free.

And the price was His own blood.

Now they belong to Him.

So Paul gives the great conclusion of the chapter:

“Therefore, glorify God with your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

The body is not to be used for sin.

It is to be used for God's glory.

Our eyes, hands, feet, words, and desires all belong to the One who bought us.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 7:23

> You were bought at a price. Do not become slaves of people.

1 Peter 1:18

> For you know that you were rescued from the empty way of life handed down from your ancestors. And you were not rescued with things that perish, like silver or gold—

Revelation 5:9

> And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because You were killed, and with Your blood You bought people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation.”

Spiritual Principle

The price Christ paid for us gives Him the right to all of us.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What the blood of Christ has purchased must be used for the glory of God.

XXI. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 6

1. Believers Must Not Take Disputes Before Unbelievers

Brother was taking brother to court in front of the world.

Principle:

The church should settle matters in wisdom and unity rather than airing grievances before the world.

2. The Church Is Called to Holiness

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Principle:

Those who persist in unrepentant sin will not inherit God's kingdom.

3. Transformation in Christ

“And that is what some of you were.”

Principle:

Through Christ, believers once bound in sin have been washed, sanctified, and justified.

4. Freedom with Responsibility

“All things are lawful for me”—but not all things are beneficial.

Principle:

True freedom means refusing to be enslaved by sin.

5. The Body Belongs to Christ

Our bodies are members of Christ.

Principle:

Because believers are joined to Christ, their bodies must not be joined to sin but kept pure for the Lord.

6. The Body Is God's Temple

The Holy Spirit lives in every believer.

Principle:

Believers are living temples for God's glory.

7. Bought with a Price

Jesus paid for us with His own blood.

Principle:

Christ's sacrifice calls us to glorify God in both body and spirit.

XXII. SIX “DO YOU NOT KNOW?” QUESTIONS

The Corinthians were proud of their knowledge.

But Paul asks them six times, **“Do you not know?”**

1. The Saints Will Judge the World (verse 2)

So believers can settle small disputes among themselves.

2. We Will Judge Angels (verse 3)

So the matters of this life are not too hard for us.

3. The Unrighteous Will Not Inherit the Kingdom (verse 9)

So we must not live in sin.

4. Our Bodies Are Members of Christ (verse 15)

So we must not join them to sin.

5. Sexual Union Makes Two One Body (verse 16)

So sex outside marriage is never casual.

6. Our Bodies Are Temples of the Holy Spirit (verse 19)

So we are not our own.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The problem was not that the Corinthians lacked knowledge, but that they were not living by what they knew.

XXIII. WHAT 1 CORINTHIANS 6 TEACHES ABOUT THE BODY

The Corinthians thought the body did not matter.

Paul teaches the opposite.

The Body Is for the Lord

It was made for God, not for sin.

The Lord Is for the Body

God cares about our bodies.

The Body Will Be Raised

God raised Jesus and will raise us too.

The Body Is Joined to Christ

Our bodies are members of Christ.

The Body Is a Temple

The Holy Spirit lives in the believer.

The Body Was Bought

Christ paid for it with His blood.

The Body Is to Glorify God

Everything we do with our bodies should honor Him.

Key Truth

Christianity does not despise the body; it dedicates the body to God.

XXIV. WASHED, SANCTIFIED, JUSTIFIED

Verse 11 gives three great pictures of salvation.

Washed

Sin makes us dirty before God.

Christ cleanses us completely.

The stain of sin is removed.

Sanctified

Sin made us common and unclean.

God sets us apart as His own.

We now belong to God.

Justified

Sin made us guilty before God.

God declares us righteous because of Christ.

We stand right with God.

The Work of the Trinity

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all work together in our salvation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God does not merely improve sinners; He washes them, claims them, and declares them righteous.

XXV. WHAT 1 CORINTHIANS 6 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

The Lord Jesus Christ

Believers are washed, sanctified, and justified in His name.

The Risen Lord

“God raised the Lord.”

The One to Whom Believers Are Joined

Our bodies are members of Christ, and we are one spirit with Him.

The Redeemer Who Paid the Price

“You were bought with a price.”

The Coming King

His people will reign with Him and share in His judgment of the world.

Key Truth

The Christ who bought us with His blood now joins us to Himself and will one day raise us up.

XXVI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why was Paul upset that believers were going to court?

They were taking disputes with other believers before unbelieving judges.

This dishonored Christ in front of the world.

The church should have settled these matters within the family of God.

Question 2

What does it mean that the saints will judge the world and angels?

When Christ returns, His people will share in His reign and in His judgment.

If believers have such a high future role, they can handle small disputes now.

Question 3

Does this chapter mean Christians can never go to court?

Paul is speaking about disputes between believers that should be settled within the church.

He himself used Roman law to protect his rights.

But among believers, the goal should be peace, not winning.

Question 4

Why does Paul say it is better to be wronged?

Winning a lawsuit against a brother is still a loss.

It damages love, unity, and the church's witness.

Following Jesus sometimes means accepting wrong rather than fighting back.

Question 5

Who will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Those who live in sin without repentance.

Paul lists sexual sins, idolatry, theft, greed, drunkenness, abusive speech, and cheating.

The list is broad enough that no one can feel superior to anyone else.

Question 6

What hope does verse 11 give?

Many in the Corinthian church had once lived in these very sins.

But they were washed, sanctified, and justified through Christ and the Spirit.

No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.

Question 7

What was wrong with saying “All things are lawful for me”?

The Corinthians used it as an excuse for sin.

Paul answered that not everything is helpful, and that freedom used for sin leads to slavery.

Question 8

Why isn't sex just a physical appetite like hunger?

God designed sex to unite two people as one flesh within marriage.

It involves the whole person, not just the body.

Question 9

Why does Paul tell believers to “flee” sexual immorality?

Some temptations are too dangerous to stand and fight.

Like Joseph, the wise response is to run.

Question 10

How is sexual sin a sin against one's own body?

It involves the whole person in a deep union.

It damages the very body that belongs to Christ and is a temple of the Spirit.

Question 11

What does it mean that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?

God Himself lives in the believer through His Spirit.

That makes the body a holy place that must be honored.

Question 12

What should 1 Corinthians 6 change about the way Christians live today?

1 Corinthians 6 should cause believers to live:

- Settling conflicts with other believers peacefully.

- Willing to be wronged rather than dishonor Christ.
- Never taking advantage of others.
- Remembering what they were and what Christ has made them.
- Using freedom wisely, not as an excuse for sin.
- Fleeing sexual temptation.
- Honoring their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.
- Glorifying God in body and spirit.

XXVII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

1 Corinthians 6 asks several important questions.

Is There a Conflict I Need to Settle?

Have I gone to my brother or sister to seek peace?

Would I Rather Win or Keep My Witness?

Am I willing to be wronged for the sake of Christ?

Have I Taken Advantage of Anyone?

Is there something I need to make right?

Am I Deceiving Myself About Any Sin?

Am I claiming Christ while holding on to sin?

Do I Remember What God Has Done for Me?

I was washed, sanctified, and justified.

Is Anything Mastering Me?

Is there a habit or desire that controls me?

Am I Running from Temptation?

Or am I staying close to it?

How Am I Treating God's Temple?

What I watch, what I do, and where I go all involve the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Am I Glorifying God with My Body?

Do I live as one who was bought with a price?

XXVIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Bought, Not Borrowed”

The world says, **“My body, my choice.”**

The Corinthians said, **“All things are lawful for me.”**

Both say the same thing:

“I belong to myself.”

But the gospel says something different.

You were bought.

Not with silver or gold.

With the precious blood of Christ.

He did not borrow you for a while.

He purchased you completely.

Your body is His.

Your spirit is His.

Your future is His.

This could sound like a loss.

But it is the greatest gain.

The One who owns you is the One who loves you most.

The One who claims your body is the One who will raise it from the dead.

The One who calls you to purity is the One who washed you clean.

This creates a powerful principle.

Freedom is not found in owning yourself.

It is found in belonging to the right Master.

Principle:

You are not your own; you were bought with a price, and that is the best news you could ever hear.

XXIX. FINAL APPLICATION

1 Corinthians Chapter 6 was written to a church that had misunderstood freedom.

They thought freedom meant suing their brothers.

They thought freedom meant cheating to get ahead.

They thought freedom meant doing whatever their bodies wanted.

But Paul showed them that true freedom looks very different.

It looks like being willing to be wronged.

It looks like settling disputes in love.

It looks like running from sin.

It looks like honoring God with every part of life.

And Paul reminded them of the grace that changed them.

They had been washed.

They had been sanctified.

They had been justified.

They had been bought with a price.

1 Corinthians 6 therefore reminds us:

Never let a dispute dishonor Christ before the world.

Never deceive yourself about sin.

Never forget what God has saved you from.

Never use freedom as an excuse to sin.

Never treat your body as if it belongs to you.

The church does not need to follow the world's view of freedom.

It needs:

Believers who make peace.

Believers who remember grace.

Believers who flee sin.

And believers who glorify God in body and spirit.

The same gospel still saves:

Tell people that no sin is too great for God's grace.

Tell people that Jesus can wash them clean.

Tell people that God will raise their bodies.

Tell people that they were bought with a price.

And until He comes:

Make peace.

Flee sin.

Honor God's temple.

Glorify God in your body.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You have washed us, sanctified us, and justified us in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by Your Spirit.

Thank You that our past does not have the final word.

Thank You that no sin is too great for Your grace.

Thank You that our bodies are members of Christ.

Thank You that Your Holy Spirit lives in us and makes us Your temple.

Thank You that You raised Jesus from the dead and will raise us too.

Thank You that we were bought with the precious blood of Your Son.

Forgive us when we fight with our brothers and sisters.

Forgive us when we would rather win than show love.

Forgive us when we take advantage of others.

Forgive us when we use our freedom as an excuse to sin.

Forgive us when we treat our bodies as if they belonged to us.

Make us peacemakers in Your church.

Give us wisdom to settle disagreements in a way that honors You.

Give us strength to run from temptation, as Joseph did.

Keep us pure in body and in spirit.

Help us remember every day that we are not our own.

And may everything we do with our bodies bring glory to You.

“Therefore, glorify God with your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God with your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” — 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Central Truth

Believers have been washed, sanctified, and justified through Christ, and because they were bought with a price, they belong to God and must glorify Him in how they treat one another and in how they use their bodies.

1 Corinthians 6 in One Sentence

Paul rebukes believers for suing one another before unbelievers, warns that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom while reminding them that they were washed, sanctified, and justified, and calls them to flee sexual sin because their bodies belong to the Lord, are temples of the Holy Spirit, and were bought with a price.