

Light Reading/Deep Reading of the Bible

1 Corinthians chapter 6

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1 Corinthians 6

How does "I can do everything, but not all things are beneficial"? What is the new life of the saints ?

The statement in 1 Corinthians 6 that "all things are possible for me, but not all things are profitable" reminds us that while as Christians we have the freedom to do many things in Christ, not all actions are good for our spiritual life and life. This kind of freedom is not an excuse for self-indulgence, but to learn self-discipline in freedom and avoid being dominated by anything. In life, we may be faced with choices such as eating, playing, using money, or expressing oneself, and while there is nothing inherently wrong with these actions, if we lose moderation, they can have negative consequences and even harm ourselves or others. Therefore, we need to judge with love and wisdom, choose those behaviors that are not only legitimate but also beneficial to our physical, mental, and spiritual growth, and avoid allowing our freedom to become a stumbling block for others. In this way, we can live a truly rewarding and God-honoring life.

The new life of a saint refers to a radical change in heart and life after receiving Christ and being born again. This new life is not a mere improvement of outward behavior, but a renewal of the Christ-centered nature of life from God. According to the Bible, the beginning of new life is the work of the Holy Spirit that leads to a new understanding of God and Christ and a willingness to submit to God's will. This life is eternal life, the life of God Himself, and it is now given to every

believer in Christ. Living a new life means that the old life of self-centeredness, sin and selfish desires has ended, and believers are constantly renewed in their thoughts, values, behaviors, and character. This includes rejecting past misdeeds and learning to behave in Christ's qualities of love, holiness, humility, and forgiveness. New life also brings a deeper hunger for God's Word and will, and living a life in union with Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in daily life. The new life of the saints is a spiritual life that grows from the inside out, reflecting the image of Christ and with the glory of God as the highest goal of life

1 Corinthians 6

Paul's letter to the Corinthian church deals with disputes within the church, moral issues, and principles of the Christian life. Paul rebuked the Corinthian believers for going to Gentile courts because of their disputes, arguing that this was contrary to the unity and wisdom of Christians. He encouraged believers to resolve disputes within the church, emphasizing the need to replace disputes with love and forgiveness, and even to the point of losing. Paul lists a number of sins (such as fornication, idolatry, covetousness, etc.) and warns that they have no part of the kingdom of God. But he reminds believers that they have been cleansed and sanctified by the name and Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ and that they should live a new life. Paul instructed believers to exercise caution in the use of freedom and to avoid the sin of lust, especially sexual immorality, because the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs to God. He emphasized that believers should glorify God, worship Him with their bodies, and reminded them that they were "bought with a price." This chapter emphasizes that Christians should resolve disputes with God's wisdom, live holy lives, honor God-given bodies, and pursue actions worthy of God's kingdom based on Christ's redemption.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for creating us and dwelling our bodies as a temple of the Holy Spirit. Your love is so deep that you want to dwell among us who are lowly. Lord, we revere Your grace and are willing to treat our bodies with respect and holiness.

Help us to understand that we are not our own, but have been bought and redeemed by You at a high price. Let us learn to cherish our bodies, not to abuse them, not to neglect them, but to manage them well, to purify and keep them, and to make them vessels that are in harmony with your heart.

May our thoughts be pure, our words upright, and our deeds pleasing to You, so that our whole body may glorify Your name.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

1 Corinthians 6

Amplified Bible

Lawsuits Discouraged

6 Does any one of you, when he has a [a] complaint (civil dispute) with another [believer], dare to go to law before unrighteous men (non-believers) instead of [placing the issue] before the saints (God's people)? 2 [b] Do you not know that the saints (God's people) will [one day] judge the world? If the world is to be judged by you, are you not competent [c] to try trivial (insignificant, petty) cases? 3 Do you not know that we [believers] will judge angels? How much more then [as to] matters of this life? 4 So if you have lawsuits dealing with matters of this life, are you appointing those as judges [to hear disputes] who are of no account in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is not one wise man among you who [is governed by integrity and] will be able *and* competent to decide [private disputes] between his fellow believers, 6 but *instead*, brother goes to law against brother, and that before [judges who are] unbelievers?

7 Why, the very fact that you have lawsuits with one another is already a defeat. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 On the contrary, it is you who wrong and defraud, and you do this even to your brothers and sisters.

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; [d] neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor [e] those who participate in homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].

The Body Is the Lord's

12 Everything is permissible for me, but not all things are beneficial. Everything is permissible for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything [and brought under its power, allowing it to control me]. 13 Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food, but God will do away with both of them. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body [to save, sanctify, and raise it again because of the sacrifice of the cross]. 14 And God has not only raised the Lord [to life], but will also raise us up by His power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Am I therefore to take the members of Christ and make them part of a [f] prostitute? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, "The two shall be one flesh." 17 But the one who is united *and* joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. 18 Run away from sexual immorality [in any form, whether thought or behavior, whether visual or written]. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the one who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within you, whom you have [received as a gift] from God, and that you are not your own [property]? 20 You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So then, honor *and* glorify God with your body.

Overview of 1 Corinthians Chapter 6

This chapter is part of Paul's pastoral correction to the Corinthian church. It addresses two main problems:

1. Believers suing each other in secular courts (verses 1–8)
2. Sexual immorality and the misuse of the body (verses 9–20)

Paul gives both practical and theological reasons for why these behaviors are wrong, rooting his teachings in the believers' identity in Christ.

■ Verses 1–8: Lawsuits Among Believers

v.1 Paul opens with a rebuke: Why are Christians bringing lawsuits against each other before unbelieving judges?

- He views this as a contradiction of the gospel, since believers are supposed to live in love and unity.

v.2–3 Paul reminds them: “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world... even angels?”

- This reveals a high eschatological view of the believer's future role with Christ. If they will judge in eternity, they should be capable of resolving small matters now.

v.4–6 He argues that it's shameful that they cannot find wise people within the church to settle disputes, and instead rely on the secular courts.

v.7 Paul makes a radical statement: “*Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?*”

- The gospel calls believers to self-sacrifice and forgiveness, even when it costs them personally.

v.8 He then points out their hypocrisy: instead of being wronged, they are the ones wronging others—fellow believers.

✚ Theological Point:

- The unity of the body of Christ and the moral witness of the church are more important than personal justice.
 - The church is a spiritual court, called to handle conflicts in love and wisdom.
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■ Verses 9–11: A Warning Against Sin

v.9–10 Paul gives a stern warning: *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?”*

- He lists various sins: sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, theft, greed, drunkenness, slander, and swindling.
- This is not an exhaustive list, but representative of a lifestyle in opposition to God’s holiness.

v.11 Then Paul gives a message of hope: *“And such were some of you. But you were washed, sanctified, and justified...”*

- Paul reminds them of their past — and their transformation in Christ.
- The verbs washed, sanctified, and justified describe salvation:
 - Washed = cleansed from sin
 - Sanctified = set apart for God
 - Justified = declared righteous before God

+ Theological Point:

- This shows the power of salvation: God's grace changes both status and identity.
 - Salvation leads to a new way of life that reflects God’s kingdom.
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■ Verses 12–20: Honor God With Your Body

v.12 Paul addresses a popular Corinthian slogan: *“All things are lawful for me.”*

- He corrects it by saying: not everything is beneficial, and he will not be enslaved by anything.
- Christian freedom is not a license for sin.

v.13 Another slogan: *“Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food.”*

- The Corinthians may have used this to justify sexual immorality, comparing it to eating — a basic need.
- Paul responds: the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

v.14 Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, He will raise us too. This elevates the body’s eternal significance.

v.15–17 Paul says our bodies are members of Christ. Uniting them with a prostitute is unthinkable—because we are united to Christ.

- The body and soul are not separate; sexual union affects the whole person.
- “The two will become one flesh” refers back to Genesis 2:24, affirming the sacred nature of sex in marriage.

v.18 *“Flee from sexual immorality.”* Other sins are outside the body, but sexual sin uniquely damages both body and soul.

v.19–20 The final theological climax: *“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit... you are not your own... glorify God in your body.”*

- This is one of the strongest affirmations in the Bible of the dignity and sanctity of the human body.
- Since God bought us with a price (Christ’s blood), we must honor Him with every part of ourselves.

Theological Point:

- Christian ethics are rooted in identity — we belong to God.
- The body is not disposable or insignificant; it is part of God’s plan for redemption.
- Sexual ethics flow from theology: who we are in Christ, and what our bodies represent.

Summary of Key Lessons

Section Main Teaching

v.1–8 Believers must not sue each other in secular courts; seek peace and unity

v.9–11 Salvation changes identity; the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom

v.12–20 The body belongs to God; flee sexual immorality; glorify God with your body

Theological Impact of 1 Corinthians Chapter 6

1 Corinthians 6 addresses serious ethical and theological issues within the Corinthian church, and its implications have shaped key areas of Christian doctrine and moral teaching. Below are the main theological themes and their lasting influence:

Theology of the Body

Key verse: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you... you are not your own” (1 Cor 6:19)

- Paul teaches that the **human body is sacred** and belongs to God, not to oneself.
 - This opposes Greek dualism (body = evil, spirit = good) and affirms the **holiness of the physical body**.
 - **Impact:** This verse is foundational for Christian ethics related to sexuality, purity, health, and respect for the body. It influenced later theological works, such as Augustine’s *Confessions* and Aquinas’s *Summa Theologica*, and laid the groundwork for the development of a Christian **Theology of the Body**.
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2 Church Ethics and Community Theology

Key verse: “But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!” (1 Cor 6:6)

- Paul criticizes believers for resolving disputes through secular courts rather than within the church.
 - This passage highlights that the **church is not just a spiritual community but also a moral and social body** called to uphold justice and reconciliation.
 - **Impact:** This influenced Christian views on **church discipline**, internal conflict resolution, and community accountability. It shaped early church practices and continues to influence church governance today.
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3 Salvation and Identity Transformation

Key verse: “And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified...” (1 Cor 6:11)

- Paul affirms that believers, though once caught in sin, have undergone a radical **spiritual transformation** through Christ.
 - This verse outlines the three-fold aspect of salvation: **cleansing (forgiveness), sanctification (holiness), and justification (righteous standing with God)**.
 - **Impact:** It plays a vital role in the doctrines of **regeneration, justification, and sanctification**, emphasizing not only forgiveness but also a **change in identity and behavior**.
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4 Eschatology and Judgment

Key verse: “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?... Do you not know that we are to judge angels?” (1 Cor 6:2–3)

- Paul reminds believers of their **future role in God’s final judgment**, a teaching rooted in Christian eschatology.
 - Believers are not passive bystanders but **active participants in God's kingdom and future reign**.
 - **Impact:** This strengthens doctrines related to **the kingdom of God, eternal judgment**, and the **future glorification of the saints**, encouraging believers to live in light of eternity.
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5 Christian Freedom and Self-Control

Key verse: “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful... (1 Cor 6:12)

- Paul challenges a misunderstanding of Christian liberty by stressing that **freedom is not a license to sin**, but must be exercised with **wisdom and responsibility**.
 - **Impact:** This shapes the Christian understanding of **moral discernment**, encouraging believers to seek what is **beneficial, edifying**, and glorifying to God—not just what is permissible.
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✓ Summary Table: Theological Impact at a Glance

Theological Theme Influence from 1 Corinthians 6

Theology of the Body Affirms the holiness of the body as God's temple

Church Ethics Promotes internal resolution, unity, and community accountability

Salvation Doctrine Highlights transformation through washing, sanctification, justification

Eschatology Believers' future role in judgment; calls for eternal perspective

Freedom & Morality Christian liberty must be guided by love, wisdom, and self-control