

Week beginning 15/3/2021

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1 Corinthians Chapter 6 - Lawsuits and honouring God

Judging the world and angels. Us? Really? See Dan 7:22; Mt 19:28; Lk 22:30; Rev 20:40.

Are we really expected to let other Christians 'get away with it' when they hurt us in some way?

Will any of us not make it into heaven with this criterion? Or should we ignore these verses?

12ff Sanctified, made holy, set apart for God. Are we one with the Lord? At what price?

Chapter 7 – Marriage Problems

"This is the word of the Lord", or "This is Paul's pastoral advice to specific issues (v1 'concerning the matters') in a very mixed society -the Greeks allowed no intimacy, the Romans, well, enough said! To the Jews marriage was a duty, the Gentiles tended towards celibacy.

Or – take your pick and do whatever you feel is best. (See Jdg 21:25)

NB v15 'God has called you to peace'

and is v23 saying we belong to Christ now – so don't become slaves to rules?

Then there's v32 the important thing is to please the Lord. So 'work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil 2:12)

Chapter 8 – Gospel obligations in a pluralistic world

To the Jew touching unclean things makes one unholy. Gentiles saw eating food offered to idols as a sacrifice to them. To Christians it is in itself irrelevant, but how it affects others is key. Make your choices in life according to the law of love. What will build other Christians up in the faith?

Chapter 9 – 8 Continued

If we are doing Christ's work we should be supported by Christ's people (v14 'Those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel') – even if it's Christ who determines what I do?

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus is where our efforts should go not keeping others in the church happy. Can this really work in practice?

How self-disciplined are we in our lives?

Chapter 10 - Obligations Continued

Practice what you preach. Don't carry the name of a disciple unless you live like Jesus.

If you think you're OK watch out! What does Jesus think of you?

How often do we pander to the culture we live in ('offering sacrifices to demons'). Grumbling. Complaining. Criticising..... Instead of rejoicing in the Lord's love and care.

v24 "We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well."

v31 "So ...whatever you do do it heartily and freely to God's glory."

Chapter 11:1 Ends this section.