**“One Purpose – One Problem”**

*Being the Church –* 1st Corinthians 6

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As we study “Being the Church” we are asking God to show us how to be the church that honors and pleases Him and operates according to His Word.

We are studying 1st Corinthians to help us do that. Paul wrote the letter while he was in Ephesus to “the Church” he planted in Corinth,

“Church” is a translation of the Greek word “*ekklesia”*, which is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.” In our study of “Being the Church” we can learn from this letter and address the same issues we see in our church.

*Last week we discussed in 1st Cor 5. The difference between being repugnant or repentant.*

*Repentance (metanoia) is a “change of mind”*

**Psalm 51:17** “The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.”

***THIS WEEK:***

**1st Corinthians 6:1-9 “**If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people? **2**Or do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? **3**Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! **4**Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? **5**I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? **6**But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!

**7**The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? **8**Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.”

### Once again Paul is reminding them of who they are in Jesus Christ, and how they are not living up to the high calling they have as temples of the Holy Spirit and ambassadors of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

### First he talks about Judging. We as God’s people who understand the will of God are to judge the world, not ask the world, who don’t know God, to judge us.

### He says in verse 2;

### “do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world”

### Basically; We who know God’s will, and understand the values of the kingdom of God, have more of an ability to make wise judgements than those who don’t.

### Then he mentions something about us judging angels;

### 3Do you not know that we will judge angels? (interesting ?)

Here’s the key;

The Greek word for “judge,” *krino*, also means “to rule or govern.”

The Bible says that God rules over the Angels.

**Psalm 103:20** “Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.”

 The Bible also says that WE are seated with Him in heavenly realms as co-heirs:

**Eph. 2:6 “**God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

**Rom. 8:17** “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

**Revelation 5:10**
“And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

So regarding Judging angels, particularly the fallen angels, Scripture does teach that the fallen angels will be judged by God along with kings of the earth, and if we are seated with him as co-heirs, by us as well;

**Isa. 24:21 “**In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below.”

### He says all this because once again he sees that they are acting like “mere humans” and *not* those who are operating in the power, maturity and authority of the Kingdom of God.

### Apparently some believers have gotten into major disputes with one another.

### 1 “do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment?”

### 5 “I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge?”

### Paul is upset that quarrels and disputes have risen to a level in this church, who are supposed to be the ultimate example those who *“love one another”* and operating in the “Wisdom of God”, - that they have to go outside the church to worldly people who are ungodly (likely Pagans) and do not believe in God or the truth of His word, and ask them for wise judgement.

### He says that since you’ve gotten to this point, you are “defeated already”

### Why? Because they are acting as typical men and women of the world, not those who are living by the spirit in the Kingdom of God.

### 1st Cor. 3:4“You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?”

### Remember what that meant when he wrote it? They were not living and walking in the Spirit but according to the flesh. They were more concerned about their own rights, possessions and self-interests than they were about the kingdom of God. And even fighting each other over it.

**Gal 5:15-17****15**If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17**For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.”

The spirit and flesh are “in conflict” with each other!

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**Romans 8:5“**Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6**The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.”

### In Chapter 6, he goes on to address those living in sexual immorality. But he also includes idolators, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers and swindlers.

### He tries to remind those he is writing to that *they too* formerly wore these labels before they were saved, washed clean and sanctified by Jesus.

### He explains that if they continue living these ways, they are allowing themselves to be governed by the flesh, and won’t experience the power, joy and peace of the Kingdom of God.

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**9** “Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? ”Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men **10**nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11**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.

**12**“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. **13**You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. **14**By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. **15**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! **16**Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” **17**But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”

**18**Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. **19**Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20**you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

He mentions many types of sins, but this time he focuses on sexual sin.

Here’s why. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Even though our body is not the same as our Soul and Spirit, it is important what we do and don’t do with our bodies.

My Simple Theology;

There is one Purpose for the world, and one Problem in the world.

The purpose for the world is LOVE.

More specifically loving and being loved by God.

Jesus says that Loving others is 2nd and like it. “Love each other”.

In fact when they asked Jesus “what is the most important thing in the world?” (or in their terms, “what is the greatest commandment”) He replied “*Love*”.

**Matt 22:36-40** “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” **37**Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’**38**This is the first and greatest commandment. **39**And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**40**All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

“All of the law and the Prophets” meant, everything that was, is or ever will be important.

So LOVE is the most important thing in the world.

More specifically a Love Relationship with God,

And Love Relationships with each other.

Of all relationships that exist on earth, there is one that is referred to as *Holy Matrimony*, the relationship of a husband and wife. It is intended to be the *quintessential* relationship here on Earth. The one that God designed to be at the center of most families and that children come into the world. It is also the relationship that mankind’s most intimate expression of affection is reserved for, sexuality.

Jesus said – (in His statement on gender and marriage);

**Matt 19:4**“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ **5**and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?

(\*next chapter, 1st Cor. 7 we will talk more about marriage and see how Paul actually says *“it’s better to remain unmarried” for some.*

 “Simple Theology” – *One Purpose - One Problem.*

What is the One Problem?

The ONE problem in the world - Sin

The reason it is the one problem because sin was designed to have a destructive effect on Relationships. With God and each other.

Sin is not arbitrary, it always effects our relationship with God, or other people.

In fact, if the greatest purpose is Love,

***Sin is the opposite of Love.***

Paul mentions a variety of many types of sins in this chapter,

According to 1st John, there are only three categories of sin;

**1 John 2:16**  **“**For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”



Lust of the Flesh, - Satisfying the senses in excess.



Lust of the Eyes, - Coveting, desiring that which does not belong to you.



Pride – Wanting to be considered better than others *(higher, more important, more successful, more attractive, more powerful, more talented, etc.)* Wanting others to look up to you, not down on you.

All sin falls into at least one of these three areas.

Sexual sin falls into two, sometimes all three of these areas and has a destructive effect on our ability *to give and receive love*. *(which is important because it’s the very reason we are created).*

But Jesus came to save us from sin. To forgive our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

* **2nd Peter 3:9** “The Lord…is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”
* **Rom. 2:4** “…God’s Kindness, leads us to repentance”

Remember, “Repentance” means “changing your mind” (Metenoia)

That means changing your mind about all three of these areas.

* *Lust of the flesh* – Do not be fixated on seeking pleasure and comfort, rather look to the needs of others.
* *Lust of the Eyes* – Be grateful for what God has given you and willing to rejoice when God blesses other people with good things as well.
* *Pride* – Be willing to be a servant to others, and prefer others over yourself.

**Phil 2:3***“Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

Closing:

All of us fall into each of these areas of sin at some point on a regular basis. All of us need the mercy, forgiveness, and most of all Grace of Jesus every day.

The good news is that His mercies are new every morning, and his love endures forever, AND;

 “*where there is an abundance of sin, than there is even more of an abundance of grace”* (Romans 5:20)

We as a church do not take sin lightly, not because it violates our rules and legalistic policies, but it keeps us from enjoying the fullness of a love relationship with God and others that we are created for.

That’s why we try to be a place where we are more committed to loving and gently restoring anyone who struggles with any sin, than we are to condemning them.

**Gal. 6:1** “If someone is caught up in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.”

If you consider yourself someone who lives by the spirit, then use the fruit of the spirit (love, patience, kindness, gentleness, meekness, etc.) to help you restore a brother or sister who is struggling.

*This is what it means to “love one another as He has Loved us”. (John 13:34)*

**Unconditional love, forgiveness, mercy and grace is how Jesus loved us.**

**All He asks is for us to do likewise.**