

LIFE GROUP notes

27 April



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 10



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the damage believers can cause when they take each other to court?
2. How should the believers have handled disputes according to v.1? (... **Do you dare take it before the ungodly for judgement instead of the Lord's people?**).
3. What does Paul tell the church in v.3? (**Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life.**).
4. What is Paul's challenge to the church in v.5? (**Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?**).



Let's go deeper

5. Who will not inherit the Kingdom of God according to v.9? (**Wrongdoers will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**).
6. Who else will also not inherit the Kingdom of God in v.9? (**Sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, greedy, drunkards, etc.**).
7. How does Paul encourage the church to change their lifestyle in v.11? (**And that is what some of you were.**).
8. How does Paul remind the believers of their identity in Christ in v.11b? (**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.**).



Let's apply this

- 9. 1 Corinthians 6:11;** 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.
- We are washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ (Titus 3:5).
 - We are set apart unto God (Hebrews 10:10).
 - We are justified "declared not guilty" by God's grace (Romans 3:24 & 28).

SUMMARY:

Week 10 – Changed by Jesus

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:1 – 11

The church at Corinth was losing its testimony in the city. Not only did the unsaved know about the immorality in the church, but they were also aware of the lawsuits involving members of the church. Paul gave **three tragedies** in this situation.

vv.1 – 2; Believers were presenting a poor testimony to unbelievers

The local judge sat in what was known as the "bema" seat of the civil magistrate, located in the heart of the marketplace. Because Greek culture found a good legal battle entertaining, anyone's lawsuit soon became public knowledge. To take the problems of Christians and discuss them before the "unjust" and "unbelievers" was to weaken the testimony of the gospel.

vv.2 – 4; The congregation had failed to live up to its full position in Christ

Believers should be fully able to judge their own matters and disputes, because of our future destiny. As we reign with Jesus Christ, we will in some sense, or another judge the world and even judge angels. It is important for Christians to settle disputes among themselves according to God's principles. This can be done either through the church, or through Christian mediation or arbitration. In Romans 13:3 - 4 Paul says that it is appropriate for the government to handle criminal cases. Believers should, be able to handle civil cases among themselves.

vv.5 – 8; The members suing each other had already lost

The Corinthians were just like modern day believers: addicted to their own "rights." But in clinging to their rights so fiercely, they had already lost. Just by going to court against your brother, you already lose. Ideally, the church should have settled the dispute. But if the church failed to do so, Paul asked the man to trust in God, not in secular judges and lawsuits and courts. Paul speaks strongly to the brother who did the wrong. "Don't you realize how serious your sin is? If a believer can cheat and wrong his brothers without conscience, it may be fairly asked if he is a believer at all

vv.9 – 10; This man who wronged his brother sets himself in bad company with fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers; and none of those who live characterized by these sins will inherit the kingdom of God unless they repent and turn to God in faith.

v.11; God's great work for us in Jesus Christ is described in three terms. We are **washed** clean from sin by the mercy of God (Titus 3:5). We are **set apart**, away from the world and unto God, by the work of Jesus on the cross (Hebrews 10:10). We are **justified** by God's grace through the work of Jesus on the cross (Romans 3:24), by faith and not by our own deeds (Romans 3:28). God can change people described in vv.9 - 10 and make them into the people described in v.11. How great is God's work.