

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

First Corinthians

Lesson Two



Answer Key

Chapter five is the beginning of a section of 1 Corinthians that deals with several very specific and practical issues.

Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – KJV).

CHAPTER FIVE

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1- 12 _____ Check

- (v.1) In what form of immoral behavior was someone in the Corinthian church involved? Someone was living with his father's wife
- (v.2) What was the Corinthians' response to this sin? They were proud of it (NIV) They were puffed up (KJV)
What should their response have been? They should have been filled with grief (mourned – KJV)
- (v.3) What was Paul's reaction to this situation? He has already passed judgment on this action as if he were present with them
- (vss. 4-5) What does Paul instruct to the believers to do about the sin of the member of the church? Hand (Deliver – KJV) the individual over to Satan

Note: To *deliver one over to Satan* means to put him out of the church body, the local assembly, hence into Satan's sphere, for he is the god of this age. (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19)

5. (v.6) Describe the meaning of the metaphor Paul uses to describe the effects of a sinful behavior being allowed in the church. **It has the same effect as yeast when baking bread. The yeast goes through the entire loaf and causes it all to rise. Likewise, a believer living in sin can influence the spiritual life of the entire congregation (answers will vary)**

6. (v.7) What Old Testament event is Christ compared to in this verse? **The Passover Lamb**

Note: The Book of Exodus describes how God sent a plague on the land of Egypt in which the firstborn son of every household would die in one night (Exodus 12:1-30). However, God instructed the Israelites to kill a lamb and place its blood on the doorposts of their homes. When the angel of death passed by that house and saw the blood on the door he would not bring death to that household. That Passover Lamb was symbolic of Jesus Christ. When we have accepted Christ as our savior then God sees the blood of the “Passover Lamb” and spiritual death will not touch us.

7. (vss.9-11) What does Paul command about associating with Christians living immoral lives? **They are not to associate with them, not even eat with them.** Does this apply to associating with unbelievers as well? **No**

8. (vss.12-13) What is the difference between how the Christian responds to unbelievers and to believers. **They are not to judge unbelievers, God will do that. On the other hand if they know that the believers are in sin they are not to even associate with that person**

CHAPTER SIX

LAWSUITS AMONG BELIEVERS

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 _____ Check

1. (v.1) What was apparently happening among the believers in the church in Corinth? **They were going to the civil judges to settle legal disputes between themselves.**

Note: In verses 2 and 3 Paul says that the believers will “judge the world” and again that they will “judge angels.” This is the only time in his epistles that Paul refers to either of these responsibilities. However, whatever he means by this, the point is clear that the believers should be able to settle arguments and disputes amongst themselves.

2. (v.4) What is Paul’s instructions to the believers for handling these disputes? **They should appoint judges from amongst themselves. These should be among those with the least status**

3. (vss.5-6) How have those with disputes brought shame on the church and the name of Christ? **They have gone in front of unbelieving judges to settle their arguments**
4. (v.7) What would be preferable to the course of action the Corinthians were taking? **It would be better simply to allow themselves to be cheated than to disgrace the church in front of unbelievers**

Note: This is the first of several references that Paul makes in the book of 1 Corinthians about not insisting on our rights. Paul makes a number of comments in this epistle that a Christian should be willing to forgo things to which they are entitled for the sake of the glory of God and the greater good of the Church, the Body of Christ.

THE WICKED WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and answer the following questions.

5. (v.9) Who will not inherit the kingdom of God? **The wicked**
6. (v.9-10) List some of the examples Paul gives to describe “the wicked.” **sexually immoral (NIV) fornicators (KJV), idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes (NIV) effeminate (KJV), homosexual offenders (NIV) abusers of themselves (KJV), thieves, greedy (NIV) covetous (KJV), drunkards, slanderers (NIV) revilers (KJV), swindlers (NIV) extortioners (KJV)**
7. (v.11) Did this describe the character of some of the Corinthians before they came to Christ?
Yes **X** No _____
8. (v. 11) What three works of God are listed which indicate that the Corinthians have been changed?
1. **They were washed** 2. **They were sanctified** 3. **They were justified**
9. How were these things accomplished? **In the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God**

Note: This passage is not saying that a person that does any of these things will not go to heaven. Some of the Corinthians themselves were guilty of these very same sins. Paul is showing that in Christ, God now sees us as new creations. Positionally we have been made clean and are sanctified and justified in God’s sight. This position is not based on anything which we have done but is rather a work of God through the Holy Spirit based on the death of Jesus Christ.

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 _____ Check

10. (v.13) What were our bodies not created for? Sexual immorality (NIV) Fornication (KJV)
What were our bodies created for? For the Lord

11. (v.14) What will the power of God that raised the Lord be able to do? Raise us up as well

12. (v.15) How does Paul describe our bodies? Members of Christ himself

13. (v.16) How does Paul describe the relationship one has if they have sexual relations with a prostitute? _____
He is one in body with her

Note: In order to reinforce his point Paul quotes from Genesis 2:24 which says, “The two shall become one flesh.” This is given in the context of the union of husband and wife. For God there is no such thing as casual sexual relations. He designed the sexual union to be restricted to married couples and he expects Christians to regard it in the same way.

14. (v.17) How does he describe one that is united to the Lord? He is one in spirit

15. (v. 18) What clear command does Paul give in this verse? Flee sexual immorality (NIV), fornication (KJV)
How do sexual sins differ from other types of sins? Sexual sins are sins against ones own body

16. (vss.19-20) It was mentioned above that one theme repeated throughout the book of 1 Corinthians is that Christians should be willing to not demand their rights for the sake of God’s glory. Explain using your own words how these verses provide the basis for such teaching. Our bodies do not belong to ourselves. We were purchased at a price and therefore we belong to God. Our bodies provide the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and we should glorify God through our bodies. (Answers will vary)

CHAPTER SEVEN

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-39 _____ Check

General advice on marriage (vss. 1-7)

1. (v.1) How did Paul find out about the concerns the Corinthians had over these issues? They wrote to him about them

2. (v.1) What is Paul’s main advice for a man? It is good for a man not to marry

3. (v.2) Because of immorality, what does Paul instruct them to do? **They should marry and have their own spouse**

4. (vss.3-5) What are the responsibilities that husbands and wives have to each other and why? **Both husbands and wives are not to withhold their bodies from the other, they are to fulfill their marital responsibilities to each other. The husband and wife's bodies belong to the other spouse as well as to themselves. They should only agree to abstain from sexual relations by mutual consent for a limited time for the purpose of prayer and fasting. (Answers will vary)**

5. (v.6) Are the instructions to not marry in verses 1 and 7 meant to be a command from God or advice from Paul? **Advice from Paul**

6. (v.7) How does Paul describe his ability to be content although not married? **As a gift**

Advice to unmarried and widowed people (vss. 8-9)

7. (v.8) What is Paul's advice to this group of people? **That they remain unmarried**

8. (v.9) When does he suggest that single people marry? **If they are not able to control themselves (NIV)**
If they cannot contain (KJV)

Advice to the married (vss. 10-11)

9. (v.10) Is this advice being given as Paul's recommendation or as a commandment from the Lord? **A commandment from the Lord**

10. (vss.10-11) What is Paul's general advice concerning someone leaving or divorcing their spouse? **They should not leave or forsake their spouse**

11. (vs.11) If someone does leave their spouse how should they live? **They should remain unmarried or try to be reconciled**

Advice for those in other circumstances (vss. 12-16)

12. (vs.12) Is the following advice from the Lord or Paul's recommendation? **It is Paul's advice**

13. (vss.12-13) Should a believing spouse leave their partner because he or she is an unbeliever? **No**
14. (vs.14) What should the believing spouse do if his or her partner is willing to remain married? **He or she should be willing to remain married and stay with the unbeliever**
15. (vs.14) How does the believer's presence in the marriage effect the relationship? **The unbeliever is sanctified by the believer and the children are also holy**
16. (vs.15) What should the believer do if the unbeliever chooses to leave? **He or she should allow the other to leave. That person is not bound.**
17. (vs.15) How has God called us to live? **In peace**
18. (vs.16) What reason does Paul give for the believing partner to remain with the unbeliever? **It is possible that the believer may be able to lead the unbeliever to salvation**

General rules for people in various circumstances (vss. 17-24)

19. (v.17) What is the general rule which Paul lays down for the churches? **Each person should keep their place in life (NIV) As God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk (KJV)**
20. (vss.21-22) Were slaves to actively seek their freedom? **No**
 Were they to accept freedom if it was offered to them? **Yes**
21. (v.22) How were they to view themselves in Christ? **They were free men in the Lord's sight**
22. (v.23) On what basis should believers not become enslaved to men in their minds? **They have been bought with a price**

Note: Slavery was an accepted social institution in the Roman Empire. Although Paul recognized that slaves would desire freedom, he never encouraged them to run away from their owners. In other passages Paul gives instructions both to slaves and masters (Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25). Paul does not endorse the institution of slavery, but he gives guidelines as to how Christians should live regardless of their circumstances in life.

Advice to unmarried women (vss. 25-31)

23. (v.25) Is the advice Paul give in these verses directly from the Lord or his own opinion? His opinion

24. (v.26) How does Paul describe the current situation in Corinth? Present crisis (NIV)

Present distress (KJV)

Note: No one knows for certain what “distress” Paul was referring to. Some have suggested that the believers were experiencing persecution. Others believe Paul is referring to his conviction that the Lord was going to return in his own lifetime. Whatever he was referring to it explains the tentative nature of many of the commands in this chapter.

25. (v.26-27) What is the advice Paul gives to the unmarried? Remain as you are, do not seek to be married

26. (v.28) What does Paul say to someone that does marry? They have not sinned but they will have trouble in this life

27. (vss.29-31) How does Paul describe the way the Corinthian believers should live? They should live as if their life were short and the present world would end in the very near future. (Answers will vary)

Reasons for remaining single (vss. 32-37)

28. (vss. 32 –35) Describe in your own words the benefit there is for a man or woman to remain unmarried. By remaining single a man or woman can be fully devoted to the Lord. When they are married their attention must be divided between devotion to the Lord and their commitment to their spouses

29. (vs. 36) What is Paul’s advise to a man that is engaged to a woman that is getting older and he would like to marry her? He advises them to marry, it is not sinning.

30. (vs. 37) Is it wrong for someone that chooses not to marry his fiancé. No

31. (vs. 39) How long is a woman bound to be married to her husband? For as long as the husband is alive

32. (vs. 39) Under what condition may she remarry and whom may she marry? **If her husband dies**
and her new husband should be a believer.

Note: This verse is very important because it is a direct application of the principle that believers should only marry other believers. The most commonly used verse to defend this principle is 2 Corinthians 6:14 which instructs Christians to not be “unequally yoked” with unbelievers.

CHAPTER EIGHT

FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 _____ Check

Note: Corinth was a city dominated by paganism. There were dozens of temples to the various Greek gods and food was offered as sacrifices to these gods. It was a common practice if the leftover meat from the sacrifice was not eaten either by the priest or the offerer to sell the meat in the public market. It was impossible to know if the meat one bought was ordinary or if it had been part of a pagan sacrifice. This created a moral dilemma for two groups of Christians. Those that converted from Judaism would have found that eating such food to be abhorrent. Some of the Gentile believers might associate the meat with the pagan sacrifice in their minds and feel they are somehow defiling themselves by eating it.

This portion of scripture, while directly referring to the question of food sacrificed to idols, also relates principles that can be applied to many other practices which, though not directly forbidden in Scripture, some Christians might disapprove of while others may not be bothered. Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 and Romans 14 to learn more of what Paul says about these “gray areas” of the Christian life.

1. (vss. 1-3) Paul says, “knowledge puffs up, but love “builds up” (KJV-edifieth). Describe in your own words the point that Paul is making in verses 1-3 about the difference between knowledge and love. _____
Mere knowledge without love makes a person arrogant and unsympathetic to others. (Answers will vary)
 2. (vs. 4) How are Christians to regard idols? **They are nothing, they are powerless and they mean nothing**
 3. (vss. 5-6) How does Paul describe God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? **The Father is described as as the one from whom we came and for whom we live. Jesus is the one through whom we came and through whom we live.**
 4. (vs. 7) How does Paul describe the feelings of some Christians that eat meat they are afraid has been offered idols? **They think of it as having been offered to idols and their consciences are offended.**
-

5. (vs. 8) Does eating or not eating certain kinds of food change our relationship with God? **No**

6. (vss.9-11) How could the eating of meat have a negative effect on a fellow believer? **If the weaker sees the stronger Christian brother eating meat it might cause him to eat such things also, but since he does fully understand the freedom he has in Christ to do such a thing it could cause the weaker brother to act against his own conscience.**

7. (vs. 12) Against whom do we sin when we do things that violate the conscience of other Christians? **Against the weaker Christian brother and against Christ.**

8. (vs. 13) How does verse 13 reinforce the recurring theme of 1 Corinthians that Christians should be willing to give up their rights? **Paul says that he would rather give up eating meat altogether if it is going to cause a fellow believer to stumble.**

Write 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 from memory on the lines below.

Use the space below for any questions or comments:

I would like to be contacted by a minister in my area that can help me better understand God's Word. If checked please include a telephone number _____

RETURN COMPLETED LESSON TO:

**Bible Correspondence Fellowship
PO Box 2300
Port Orchard, WA 98366**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

E-mail Address (optional): _____

Copyright 2003 by Prison Mission Association All rights reserved