

COMMENTARY

RINTHIANS 6:

vs. 1-11:

Paul is upset by the pride and arrogance of the false teachers and uses sarcasm here to underline his point. If they knew all that they claimed then they would feel competent to judge men and even angels (in reality, this is not the case at all!). Paul suggests that if they are as capable as they think (knowing that they're not) they then should surely be competent enough to handle the lawsuits between Christians.

Paul goes on to show that they are still immature in their faith. If they weren't: 1. they wouldn't be offending each other so much and 2. they would be able to forgive and forget! He warns them not to take part in such activities, for habitual sinners will not be allowed in the Kingdom of God.

They all had been habitual sinners at one time, but now they had been washed, set apart unto God, and made without sin in the name of Jesus and through the working of the Holy Spirit!

vs. 12-20:

Paul uses a phrase that was common among the Corinthians--"Everytng is permissible for me". He goes on to show that even if that were true (and it's not), it would serve no purpose! Our bodies and life here is just temporary. We should instead be living for God and using our bodies for His glory.

God has already proved the ability to raise the dead and we shall all be raised to life when Christ returns. God has purchased us by the blood of Christ and we are now to live for Him rather than pleasing the body!

COMMENTARY

CORINTHIANS 7:

vs. 1-40:

Paul IS NOT AGAINST MARRIAGE! He is simply stating that there are advantages in remaining single. He tells couples that their sexual relations should continue after becoming (it is not evil within that context).

Becoming a Christian did not negate any prior relationships or agreements. If a person became a Christian, their marriage was still in effect. They were not to divorce their non-Christian spouse (they might in time be able to win them to Christ). The question of a Christian couple should not need to be considered (if both were walking with the Lord, their problems would take care of themselves).

If their non-Christian spouse decides to leave, they are to allow it; rather than force them to stay. Even so, they are still not to re-marry!

Paul encourages them to live life, trusting God rather than worrying about every need that arose. Those who are single have an advantage here, for it is easier to serve God and trust Him for all your needs when it is you alone, compared to a wife and family.

If one's spouse dies, they are allowed to re-marry; providing that they marry a Christian spouse!

CORINTHIANS 8:

vs. 1-13:

Paul once again comes back to the Corinthians assumption that they have all knowledge. He goes on to say that knowledge leads them to pride and boasting; whereas love will help them relate to one another and be built up.

The Corinthians were getting meat that had been given to idols, for a much lower price. There were some who suggested that this was not a good testimony but rather suggested that they were supporting the idol worship.

Paul realized that idols were meaning less and had no power. Only God is capable and responsible for creating all things. For this reason, Paul sees no problem with it except for the fact that it will cause someone else to do it, who feels it is wrong. This would cause that person to go against their conscience and to sin. For that reason, Paul tells them not to partake.

COMMENTARY:

CORINTHIANS 9:

vs. 1-27:

Paul returns to the defense of his ministry. He had been faithful to proclaim God's word and to teach others about Christ. Even so, there were some who suggested that Paul should not be allowed some of the other things in life, that the other Christian had.

Paul argues that he has just as much right to food, drink, and a family as anyone else. He cites examples in life where one who works is rewarded and benefits from his labors. He also demonstrates that God has always taught this principle; that those leading the people were worthy of being paid a wage that they could live on. (Paul reminds them that for their benefit, he had not demanded or expected to be paid while ministering among them-- it wasn't that he didn't deserve or earn it!)

Paul teaches them the need to accommodate various people and to do things their way (within God's standards) so that you might be able to reach them and influence them for the sake of Christ! Whatever it takes to get their attention and share with them the message of Christ, we should be willing to do.

He then reminds them of the eternal reward that they are striving for. Eternal life is worth persevering and disciplining your body--so that you might be found lacking when Christ returns!

CORINTHIANS 10

vs. 1-13:

Paul reminds them of how the people in the wilderness went through similar experiences as Christians. They were "immersed" in a sense, all partook of the same food and drink (even as Christians do with communion) and followed God's leading. Still, many were slain because of their sin! So it will be in the Church if Christians turn and make the same mistakes as the Hebrews.

He tells them the the Israelites are examples of what not to do. Their idolatry, immorality, testing the Lord and grumbling caused them to be punished and these same things are not to be tolerated in the Church!

When temptation does come along, however, we can take consolation in the fact that we will be able to overcome it, if we want to! God will always provide a way out, if we will simply look for it and take it; we can avoid sin in our lives!

vs. 14-22:

When we partake of communion, we are partaking of the Lord's body and blood. We are united and form one body. The same thing takes place when people partake at meals in honor or recognition of demons or idols. Therefore, if we were to partake we would be joining ourselves with demons.

We are to align ourselves with God and are to have no part in the meals and services of demons!

vs. 23-33:

Paul shows the Corinthians the fallacy of their statement: "Everything is permissible". The fact is: not everything is allowable! We are to be aware of what is right and wrong, what society views as right and wrong, and what our fellow Christians view as right and wrong. We should then avoid all appearance of evil and try to live within the standards of others. In this way we will not be responsible for offending them or causing them to sin. We will keep the oneness of the body and people will be reached!

STUDY GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 6

1. Who will judge the world?
2. What should Christians be competent to judge?
3. What are they to do if there are disputes?
4. What have they been doing; instead of solving these matters?
5. What were they doing to their brothers?
6. Who will not inherit the kingdom of God?
7. What had been done to them by the Spirit in the name of Jesus?
8. What did Paul say, even though "everything was permissible"?
9. What is the body meant for?
10. What has God done, and what will He do? (see vs 14)
11. What does the one who unites himself with Christ become?
12. Why are we not our own, and what should we do?

BONUS:

1. When and how should a Christian intervene to settle a matter?
2. What is Paul saying in verse 12?
3. What is the significance of being bought by God?

STUDY GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 7:

1. Why did Paul suggest that people marry?
2. Why does Paul tell couples to come together?
3. What advice does Paul give to the unmarried and widows; if they can control themselves?
4. What is a woman to do if she separates from her husband?
5. What are believers to do if their unbelieving spouse wants to stay married and not separate?
6. What are the believers to do if the unbeliever leaves?
7. What should each person retain?
8. According to verse 19, what counts?
9. What will those who marry, face?
10. What is an unmarried man concerned about?
11. What is a married man concerned about?
12. Who does Paul tell the Christian widow to marry, if she does?

BONUS:

1. Was Paul against marriage? Explain.
2. What does Paul teach about divorce, separation and re-marriage?
3. What does this chapter teach us about single people today?

Study Guide

I Corinthians 8

1. What does love do and what does knowledge do?
2. What does Paul say about the man who thinks he knows something?
3. Who is known by God?
4. What does Paul say about idols?
5. What does Paul say about God, the Father?
6. What does Paul say about Jesus Christ?
7. Why is their conscience defiled?
8. What will not bring us near to God?
9. What is not to become a stumbling block to the weak?
10. What could happen to a weak brother because of someone's knowledge?
11. What are you doing when you sin against your brothers in Christ?
12. For what reason, would Paul be willing never to eat meat again?

BONUS

1. What are areas of opinion that divide Christians?
2. What principles does Paul give us in these matters?
3. How does Paul's words about knowledge and love apply in this area?

STUDY GUIDE

I Corinthians 9:

1. Who did Paul say he had seen?
2. In verse 3; what were people doing to Paul?
3. What rights does Paul say apostles should have?
4. What examples does Paul give of workers getting reward for service?
5. What hope should the plowman and the thresher have?
6. What does Paul say that those who sow spiritual seed are worthy of?
7. What does God command about those who preach the gospel?
8. What was Paul compelled to do?
9. Why does Paul make himself a slave to everyone?
10. What has Paul become to all men and why?
11. Why do we run the race and go into strict training?
12. Why does Paul control his body?

BONUS:

1. What should churches pay preachers and other workers?
2. How can we reach other people? Be specific?
3. How is a Christian to control his body?

STUDY GUIDE

I Corinthians 10

1. What were the forefathers baptized into?
2. Why did all these things happen?
3. What 4 things are mentioned as the people doing? (vs 7-10)
4. What happened to the various groups in question 3?
5. What does verse 13 teach us about temptation?
6. In verse 14, what are we to flee from?
7. What is the cup of thanksgiving and bread?
8. What causes us to be one body?
9. What does Paul say about--"Everything is permissible"?
10. What should we seek?
11. What are we to do all for? (vs 31)
12. Why does Paul seek the good of many?

BONUS:

1. Is the Old Testament important to Christians today? Explain.
2. What does Paul teach in this chapter about Communion?
3. How are we to handle areas of opinion?