

MATTERS OF LIFE (Part #1)

Request: “A fellow worker asked me about 1 Cor.6:9-11 and about certain people unable to inherit the kingdom of God. She wondered why Paul made certain ‘life styles’ an issue associated with salvation?”

- 1Cr 6:9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders
- 1Cr 6:10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1Cr 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.

This request allows me the opportunity to show you how important the context of certain verses is to their understanding. We will investigate the context of our lesson text by the following five points.

- If you have a study bible, does your bible show the context of our lesson text is 1 Cor.6:1-11?
- How does your study bible title the context? _____ (1 Cor.6:1)
- What is the doctrinal discussion surrounding our lesson text? (1 Cor.6:1-8)
- What doctrinal point is Paul making to the Corinthian Church in 1 Cor.6:2 and 6:3?
- So what doctrinal point is Paul making by using these 10 different life styles? (1 Cor.6:9-11)

The title of today’s lesson, Matters of Life, is found in 1 Cor.6:3-4. It is the Greek word *biotikos* referring to things belonging to the necessities of daily living.

We will study FOUR aspects of the church dealing with the Matters of Life rather the courts of the world.

1. Paul is not talking about salvation in 1 Cor.6:1-11.

He is talking litigation between Corinthians believers in civil courts (Rom.13:1-4).

Paul is not talking about criminal injustices or boundary disputes. He is talking about *biotikos* or Matters of Life.

Paul asked the Corinthian Church nine questions that he had earlier taught them the answers to in bible class.

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| 6:1- | 6:2- | 6:2- |
| 6:3- | 6:3- | 6:4- |
| 6:5-6- | 6:7-8- | 6:9-11- |

2. Paul is not forbidding using legal contracts or criminal courts (1 Pet.2:13-20; 1 Tim.2:1-3).

Paul is suggesting that believers should not be going to worldly courts to settle spiritual matters of the Christian life (1 Cor.6:2-4).

“Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life (*merimna biotikos*), and that day come on you suddenly like a trap.” (Luke 21:34; Matt.6:24-34; Luke 8:14) [thorny ground]

“Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.” (1Pet.5:7; Luke 10:41) [Martha]

“That there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.” (1Cor.12:25; Phil.2:20-21)

3. Rome allowed organized religions to settle matters of life by arbitration among themselves.

For example: the Jews had the Sanhedrin court. Jesus went before both of them prior to His crucifixion.

“Or do you not know that saints will judge the world? And if (1cc) the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? (Matt.6:2)

“If (3cc) then you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?” (Matt.6:4)

The phrase “**do you not know**” is used six times in chapter six to make the point that the study of God’s word should result in a believer being able to make correct decisions in spiritual matters of life (Matt.6:2, 3, 9, 15, 16, 19).

- Paul is saying take matters of life before saints of the church who have the spiritual maturity and wisdom of God to decide on spiritual matters.

4. Paul is asking why Christians would want to bring righteous matters before unrighteous people:

“I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?” (Matt.6:5-6)

“**Or do you not know** that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexual, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” (Matt.6:9-10)

Why would the righteous believers bring matters of life before unrighteous and expects God’s righteousness?

Then Paul reminded them that they know very well the character of those representing the world of Corinth since they were once one of them – “And such were some of you; but (alla/ contrast) you were washed, but (alla) you were sanctified, but (alla) you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” (Matt.6:11)

Paul closed this context with three important aspect of positional truth that qualifies all believers to the Supreme Court of heaven (Matt.6:11).

- Washed (apolouo) (a.m.ind 2pl) washing by regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- Sanctified (hagizo) (a.p.ind 2pl) made holy by baptism of Holy Spirit (Rom.15:16)
- Justified (dikaioo) (a.p.ind 2pl) just by acquittal of AOS (Rom.4:25)

Paul is encouraging the Corinthian believers to not lose sight of the mission of the church in the world (Ambassadorship to the lost world/ 2 Cor.5:18-21).

“Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that your brethren.” (Matt.6:7-8)

“And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. And beyond all these things **put on** love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” (Col.3:12-14)