

Speaking of Judges  
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

1. Big Picture
  - a. Paul closes his instructions regarding blatant sin in the fellowship with the admonition to recognize and label sin as “sin” and deal with it accordingly,
    - i. judging behavior and acting in love in whatever ways are most necessary to save sinful hearts in danger of eternal damnation.
    - ii. God will judge those outside the church; you need to judge those inside the church and deal judiciously with them for the sake of their salvation.
  
  - b. A second problem that threatens to weaken the spiritual health and well-being of the church, as well as their witness to the unsaved.
    - i. The first threat was tolerance of sexual immorality.
    - ii. The second threat is acceptance of misplaced mediation.
      - (1) Apparently this is a two fold problem
        - (a) One Christian brother has cheated another (probably in a property dispute)
        - (b) The cheated brother has taken the cheater to court
      - (2) Before we talk about how to treat one another in the Body, let’s talk about how God has treated us bringing us into the Body of Christ.
  
  - c. Every issue Paul has confronted in this letter so far he has done so by taking us to the cross.
    - i. The cross of Christ
      - (1) is not merely some historical event which satisfies the demand for divine justice
      - (2) The cross of Jesus Christ is the life changing event that changes the past and reshapes the present and the future for all those who believe.
    - ii. In this paragraph,
      - (1) Paul defines his audience
        - (a) In very personal, moral terms.
        - (b) In very personal, salvation terms
      - (2) Paul describes God
        - (a) In terms of His ability to recognize and redeem their moral status
        - (b) In terms of God’s sovereign grace
          - (i) As the indwelling reason Christians must resolve conflicts among themselves without the world’s intervention
          - (ii) As the indwelling ability Christians can resolve conflicts without the world’s intervention

2. Paul's Statement of Their Former and Current Status
  - a. Here's what you were
    - i. Wicked and without a future hope
      - (1) You could just stop here and know that Paul is talking about all of us
        - (a) There is none, righteous; no not one.
        - (b) All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
      - (2) Do not be deceived: just in case you think this doesn't apply to you
    - ii. The non-exhaustive list
      - (1) Unrighteous
      - (2) Sexually immoral
      - (3) Idolaters - people who attempt to worship God on their terms rather than the one He has set
        - (a) "There are many ways to God and God takes many forms"
          - (i) Reduces God to a human philosophical concept
          - (ii) Depersonalizes God and makes Him a captive of human imagination
        - (b) "God is a god of love who doesn't judge anyone"
          - (i) The God, not "a god"
          - (ii) Consuming Fire
          - (iii) The Judge of all the earth
          - (iv) Accepting one aspect of God's character and rejecting all the others is idolatry
      - (4) Adulterers
        - (a) **Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV)** <sup>27</sup> *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'* <sup>28</sup> *But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
        - (b) Lust and lustful thinking are sins that have to be brought to the cross, forgiven, and abandoned
      - (5) Men who practice homosexuality
      - (6) Thieves
      - (7) Greedy
      - (8) Drunkards
      - (9) Revilers
        - (a) Slanderers
        - (b) Become a common way for people to think of and speak to one another
        - (c) Rather than keep a disagreement neutral and focused on the issue, someone makes it personal and begins to speak disparagingly of their opponent rather than the issue at hand
      - (10) Swindlers
  - b. Here's what you are
    - i. Personal Commitment - But you were washed
      - (1) Middle voice - You have washed yourselves

- (2) You made the choice for baptism based on your profession of faith
  - (3) **Romans 6:1-4 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**
  - (4) **Romans 6:4 (NIV) <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**
  - ii. Divine Consecration - But you were sanctified
    - (1) God set you apart for himself
    - (2) God acted in history to manifest the magnificence of his glory by bringing you to faith in Himself
  - iii. Divine Crucifixion - But you were justified
    - (1) Brought into alignment with the will and purpose of God through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross
    - (2) Jesus experienced in full measure in his death the judgment your sin deserves, so that the divine ruling against you might be met with mercy and forgiveness
    - (3) By trusting Him and putting your faith in Him today, you are free of the guilt and shame that once bound you and can stand fearlessly before God when the day of judgment comes
  - c. The Big Picture
    - i. God has acted in Christ and through the Spirit, in such a way as to effect change in the very core of your being, who you really truly are
    - ii. **Being born again through faith in Jesus and by the Spirit of God is not only a positional change it is a personal transformation!**
    - iii. **Stop acting like what you were and start acting like what you are.**
3. How can knowing who you are as a person saved by grace change the way you handle disputes with believers today?
- a. Share the same need and the same Savior
  - b. Strive to find ways of conflict resolution that accuate God's word and God's principles
  - c. Settle for nothing less than honoring God and exalting Christ as the Spirit works in you.