



RIGHT

JUDGMENT

March 10-
March 24



A Study in First Corinthians



RIGHT

J U D G M E N T

A Study in First Corinthians

March 10 -March 24

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RIGHT JUDGMENT

Let's face it, relationships are hard! Parents and children argue. Husbands and wives hurt each others. Best friends get angry at one another. People you love do things unfathomable to you. Being a Christian doesn't mean your relationship will be easy, but it does mean that there is hope in each and every relationship! In 1 Corinthians Paul writes to a church in conflict. As he speaks to them about their relational conflicts he speaks to us too.

Over the next few weeks we will look at how sin destroys relationship and how that should cause us to hate sin even more. We will discuss when it is appropriate to confront sin and when it is best to keep silent. We will learn that Christ is full of grace and truth and that we too must be grace and truth as we remove our logs in order to see clearly to clear the speck in our brother's eye. We will find that Jesus has come to reconcile us one to another, that it is not fitting for Christians to be in conflict, and that the only way to overcome our differences is through the cross. And yes, we will talk about those avoided but important topics, marriage and singleness.

In other words, we will talk about relationships. No man is an island unto himself. Married or single. Rich or poor. Asian or American. We are all relational people. Even lonely people have to struggle through relationships.

Relationships are hard...but Christ has called us to hard things. So press in a little harder to Christ and learn to love those difficult people in your life as they learn to love you.



Outside or Inside

*Right
Judgments*

*Week 1
March 10, 2019*





Judgment is a divisive topic, even in the church. From your understanding of Scripture what are some things we are called to judge and what are some things we are not to judge?

See: 1 Cor. 4:5; 5:3, 12, 6:2, 3, 5, 11:31

JUDGE	JUDGE NOT



Categorize the following as Judge or Judge Not:

- A Christian having an affair
- A Non-Christian drinking to excess
- A Christian who chooses to fast twice a week
- Two believers who refuse to talk to each other
- A Christian who believes it is a sin to watch movies
- A Christian lying to their boss
- A Non-Christian who sleeps around

THE HEART OF JUDGMENT

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 and answer the following:

- Why should Christians mourn when others sin?
- What are some improper responses to the sin of others?
- Can you think of examples today where Christians might "boast" (see v. 6) in sin in the church?
- What happens when we don't confront sin?

Sin is destructive and we weep over what it does to our brother or sister.

Sin is a mockery to the cross and we are broken over how we can turn away from the grace of Christ (see Jam. 4:8-10)





Galatians 6:1



Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.



- What does it look like to restore in gentleness? Have you ever witnessed restoration done well before?
- What temptations do we face when we seek to restore a fellow Christians?
- What are some ways to "Keep Watch" on yourself? (*See Below*)

THE PEOPLE OF JUDGMENT

Read 1 Corinthians 5:4 and fill in who is present in the assembly:

YOU (CHURCH)

LORD _____

PAUL'S _____

- How does the Matthew 18 Principle mirror 1 Corinthians 5:4? (See Matt. 18:16-17, 20)
- *Why is judgment done in community?*
- *What is the importance of Jesus' presence?*



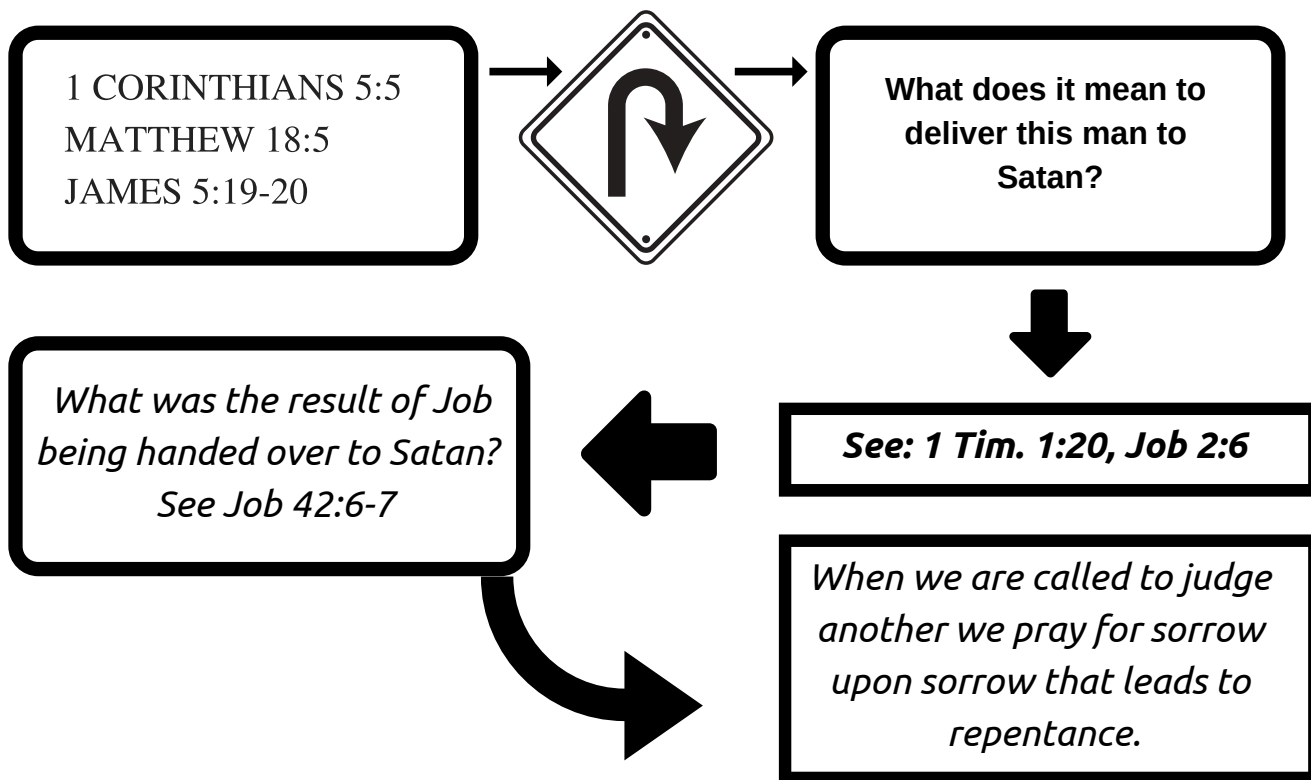
See John 5:22-30,
12:48,



THE PURPOSE OF JUDGMENT



READ THE FOLLOWING AND DISCUSS THE PURPOSE OF JUDGMENT:



One purpose of judgment is to bring repentance, but a second purpose is to ensure that Christ's bride remain pure. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, 13 and discuss the following:

- *What does Paul mean by, "a little leaven leavens the whole lump?"*
- *Often times we read this chapter with a focus on sexual sin, what other sin is included next to immorality? See v. 11, 6:9-11*
- *The "purge" language can be found all through Deuteronomy. Read the following verses and discuss the what "acceptable" sins might need to be purged from your life/group/church.*



Titus 2:11-14

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to **purify for himself** a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

— THE EXCEPTION OF JUDGMENT —

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-10, 12



- Why are we to not judge unbelievers?
- Where is the balance between loving unbelievers and not affirming their lifestyle?
- What are some wrong ways the church has engaged unbelievers?
- Read John 17:15. How are we to be in the world but not of the world?
- Do you think the church struggles more with being in the world or of the world?
- 1 Corinthians 5:13 reminds us that unbelievers will one day be judged by God himself. How does this motivate us to speak the truth in love to our unbelieving friends?

*Think of the extremes:
affirming and
condemning*

If strict discipline, and thereby strict morals, were maintained in the church, it would in all probability be one of the most powerful means of conviction and conversion towards those

who are without.

-Jonathan Edwards



REFLECTION:

Judgment is not a topic we like to discuss, but it is something that must be discussed. We are called upon to judge ourselves and continually be transformed by the power of the cross so that the judgment of the church will not take place. But if a brother or sister refuses to submit to the Lordship of Christ we the church have a responsibility to help them see the beauty of Christ and the ugliness of sin.

As you read 1 Corinthians 5 have you been challenged in any way?

Remember, we are not to remove ourselves from the world nor judge the world. We are to be as Jesus was...to love them and call them to repentance. How has your attitude toward unbelievers been?

PRAYER:

Close your time together in prayer for one another. What are some praises you want to thank God for? What are some needs you have this week? Pray Hebrews 11:24-26 over one another, that we would truly see Christ as a greater reward than the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Pray for your group to be missional this week, to reach out in love to the lost.

*When I hear of disagreeable things amongst Christians,
it brings an additional weight and burden on my spirit;
I come to thee in my distress and make lamentable complaint;
Teach me how to take reproofs from friends, even though I think I do not
deserve them;
Use them to make me tenderly afraid of sin, more jealous over myself,
more concerned to keep heart and life unblameable;
-Valley of Vision*



FAMILY DISPUTES

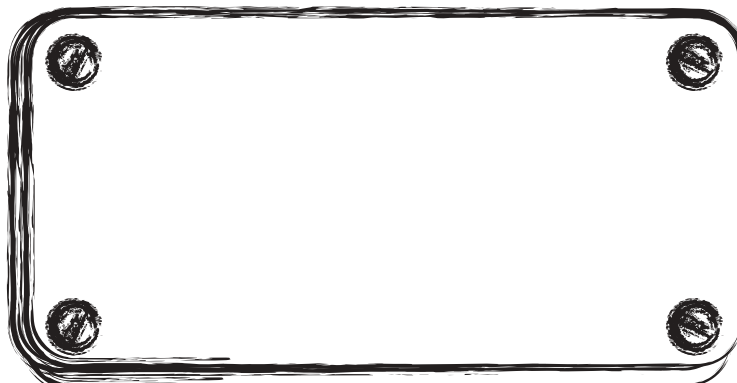
*Right
Judgments*

*Week 2
March 17 2019*





WHAT ARE SOME CONFLICTS YOU HAVE WITNESSED THIS WEEK?



Read 1 Cor. 6:1-11

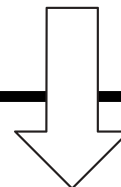
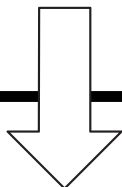
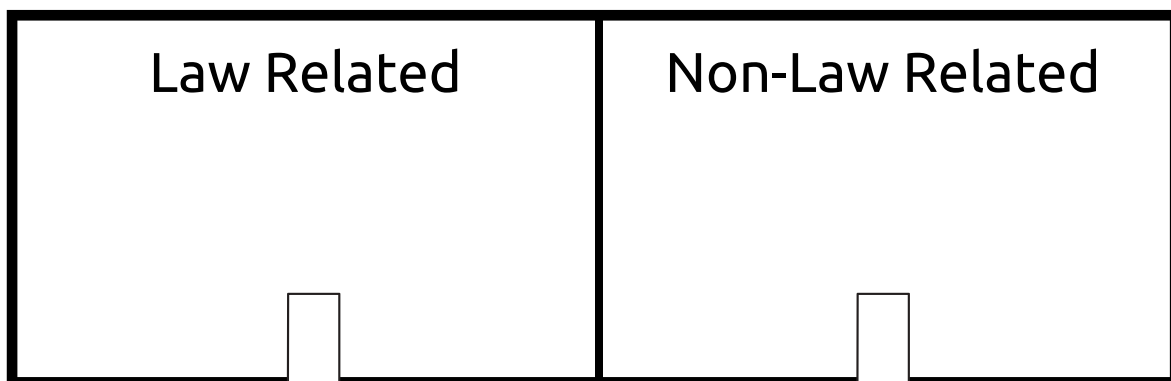


- What problems are being addressed? How is this relevant for the church today?

*When one of you has a **grievance** against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?*



WHAT ARE SOME COMMON TYPES OF **GRIEVANCES** PEOPLE HAVE TODAY?



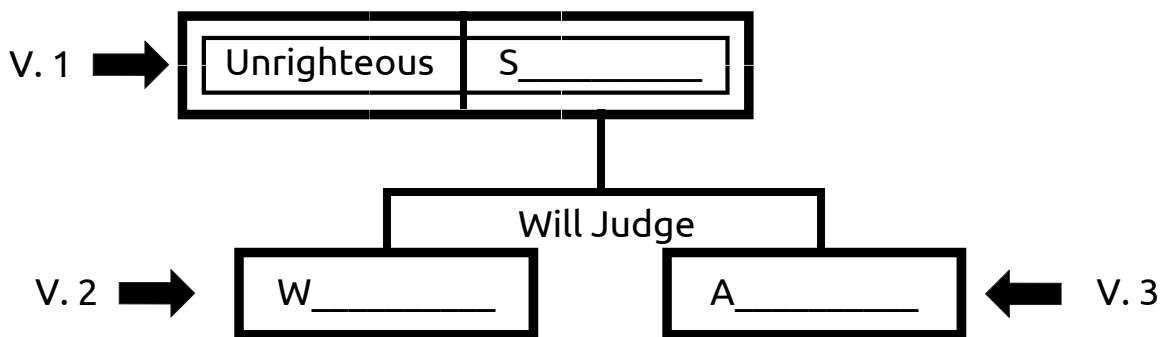
The Gospel has power to resolve all of these conflicts!



— AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH —

Read 1 Cor. 6:1-4

Fill in the following:



- How does the above prove that the church has the ability to handle all kinds of disputes? *see v. 3b*
- Is Paul saying that he disapproves of all courts of law? *Think about his own experiences.* What is his primary concern here?

Read 1 Cor. 6:5-6

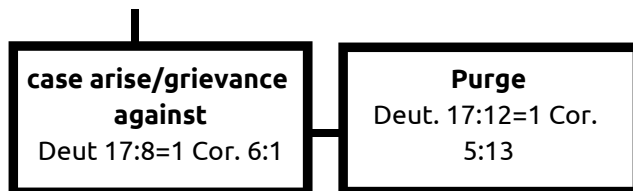
SHAME →

- What does our disunity tell the world about Christ's power?
- How can we use this to fight for unity?

WISE →

- Do you notice the sarcasm of Paul's words? See Ch. 1-3 use of wisdom.
- Contrast wisdom in James 3:17-18 with "wisdom" in Corinth.

Read Exodus 18:13-27 & Deut. 17:8-13



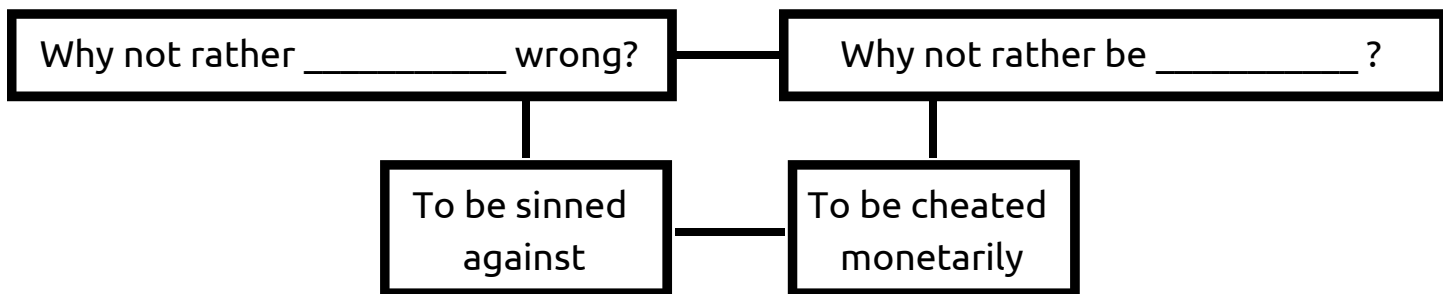


- How do the previous verses help you understand the church's ability to resolve conflict?
- How is Scripture to be used in deciding disputes? (Ex. 18:16, 20)
- What are some examples of "great" and "small" matters (Ex. 18:22)?
- Who are some people in your church/small group you are able to go to when you have a dispute with a brother?

———— ATTITUDE OF THE CHRISTIAN ————

Read 1 Cor. 6:7-11

Fill in the following:



- **Compare this idea with Matthew 5:38-48**
- **Jesus calls us to radical obedience that *infringes* upon our rights, how does that make you feel?**
- **Why does Jesus want us to live with such extreme forgiveness?**

This does not excuse the Christian who does wrong. See v. 8-10

- **How does Chapter 5 help us to willingly suffer wrong and be defrauded?**



1 Cor. 6:11

And **such were some of you**. 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.



δικαιώω
to declare guiltless one accused or who may be accused, acquitted of a charge or reproach

Paul is reminding us that we were guilty...such were some of you, but God has forgiven us...declared us NOT GUILTY...because of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

- *How does this truth help us to forgive others?*
- *Have you ever committed a great offense and been forgiven? Describe how you felt.*
- *Remember, 1 Corinthians is about living in the shadow of the cross. Are there any relationship in your life that you have not submitted to the cross?*



Ephesians 4:32-5:2

And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Forgiveness is when we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them.
-Thomas Watson



REFLECTION:

Conflict is all around us. We see it every day in the news, in our workplaces, on the streets of our city, in our homes and in the church. We can not avoid conflict, but through the cross we can resolve conflict. Christ has empowered us to forgive from our hearts.

Christ has enabled us to deny ourselves and put our trust in He who is a righteous judge. He has placed us in the church and calls us to use the wisdom found in the church to help bring about resolution.

Are there relationships that you need to resolve?

For additional study see Ken Sande: Peacemaker

PRAAYER:

Close your time together in prayer for one another. What are some praises you want to thank God for? What are some needs you have this week? Spend time praying for any unresolved conflict someone in your group might be dealing with.

*Spirit of love, make me like the loving Jesus;
give me his benevolent temper,
his beneficent actions,
that I may shine before men to thy glory.
The more thou doest in love in me and by me,
humble me the more;
keep me meek, lowly,
and always ready to give thee honour.
-Valley of Vision*



UNDIVIDED DEVOTION

*Right
Judgments*

*Week 3
March 24, 2019*





— SEXUAL IMMORALITY —

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-7:2

Make a list of people in the Bible who struggled with sexual sin:



- What are some common expressions of sexual sin today?
- V. 18 tells us to **FLY** sexual immorality, what are some practical ways to do so?
- Our culture (like Corinth) doesn't see sexual immorality as sin, why does God hate it? (See 15-20)
- Notice how Paul uses gender in 7:1-2, what does the Bible teach about homosexuality? (see 6:9)

See Prov. 5,
Matt 5:27-30

φεύγω
See 1 Tim.
6:11, 2 Tim.
2:2

— SEX IN MARRIAGE —



- What are some ways the Bible celebrates sex in Marriage?

7:4

Authority over **HER** body

Authority over **HIS** body

- What are some wrong ways to understand Paul's teaching here?
- What are some wrong reasons spouses might withhold sex?
- What are some dangers of disobeying this teaching? (See. 6:15)



...except perhaps by agreement...

- Why should there be agreement between the couples?
- How do married couples come to an agreement over this topic?
- What is the connection with abstinence and prayer?

SATAN may not tempt you



- What role does Satan play in temptation?
- Knowing that temptation is a spiritual battle, what ways do we (married and single) fight in the Spiritual against sexual sin?

— COMMITMENT IN MARRIAGE —

Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

*Make a list of people in your life that have modeled well commitment in marriage.
Share with the group:*

Paul is quoting Jesus.



MATTHEW 5:31-32

MATTHEW 19:1-12

MARK 10:1-12

LUKE 16:18

- How does Paul interpret Jesus' teaching on divorce?

WIFE v. 10 not _____

HUSBAND v. 11 not _____



v. 11

If divorce happens what two options does Paul give?

- Remain _____.
- Be _____.

HARD QUESTIONS

If you become a Christian after marriage and your spouse is not a believer should you seek a divorce?

YES NO



Are you sinning if your unbelieving spouse leaves you?

YES NO



If you get divorced should you seek remarriage?

YES NO



What questions do you have about marriage and divorce?

— SINGLES —

Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-9, 25-40



- Does the church today see singleness as a gift or a disease? Explain?
- How can married couples help support singles to not waste their singleness?

V. 26 **REMAIN** as he is **KEY VERSE**

Where else do you see this phrase or idea in Chapter 7?

Empty rectangular box for notes.



Single, married, circumcised, slave, virgin, etc.

- We can be so concerned with the categories of life that we miss what is truly important. According to v. 19 what is MOST important?
- What are some modern categories we get our identity from and how should we view those things in light of eternity (v. 29-31)?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35



- What are some advantages of singleness?
- How can singles maximize their time for the Kingdom?
- What are some ways singles are not maximizing their time for the Kingdom?

READ v. 36-38



- What does it mean by "not behaving properly"?
- What are some dangers for singles and dating?

— FREEDOM —

V. 39 **WHOEVER** she wishes



- How does this go against some popular opinions of "the one"?
- Do you think some people avoid marriage because they are looking for that perfect person?
- What are some ways we might compromise our standards when marrying?

What standard does Paul place on marriage? see also 2 Cor. 6:14



REFLECTION:

Marriage and singleness is an incredibly important topic and Paul has given us some much needed teaching on this topic. Our culture today is much like Corinth's culture when 1 Corinthians was first written. There is really nothing new under the sun. People have always perverted God's good gift of sex, misunderstood the purpose of marriage, and devalued the power of singleness.

The gospel brings hope to our broken, dysfunctional marriages, gives us power over our addictions, and demonstrates to us that Christ alone is enough...without the need for marriage or child or sex or status.

Which parts of 1 Corinthians 7 was most challenging to you?

Which parts of 1 Corinthians 7 was most comforting to you?

PRAYER:

Close your time together in prayer for one another. What are some praises you want to thank God for? What are some needs you have this week? Spend time praying for one another in their marriage, their singleness, and their sexuality.

We thank thee for thy unspeakable gift.

Thy Son is our only refuge, foundation, hope, confidence;

We depend upon his death, rest in his righteousness, desire to bear his image;

May his glory fill our minds,

his love reign in our affections, his cross inflame us with ardour.

Let us as Christians fill our various situations

in life, escape the snares to which they expose us,

discharge the duties that arise from our circumstances,

enjoy with moderation their advantages,

improve with diligence their usefulness,

And may every place and company we are in be benefited by us.

-Valley of Vision

