

What Does it Mean to be Righteous? (1 Cor 6)

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Introduction: How should a Christian live his life?

- A. The real test of genuine Christianity lies in how we live, in other words our morals. **(1 John 3:7-10)**
 - 1. We feel the effects of our society, so did Corinth.
 - 2. In Corinth Idolatry's appeal was its "everything goes" moral standard.
- B. Christianity is "counter-culture", that is its moral standards are not changeable with society.
 - 1. The major goal of a local church is to clearly teach that standard and if necessary mark those within the church who will not. **(1 Cor 5:4-6)**
 - 2. When the standard or morality is lost within a Christian, it is impossible to maintain a Biblical faith in God. **(Rom 1:24-25)**

1. How far can I go in defending my rights? (1 Cor 6:1-8)

- A. Jesus warned against putting too much importance on things. **(Luke 12:13-15)**
 - 1. This was expected of the unrighteous, but not of saints.
 - 2. Who are the righteous?
 - a. Those who are forgiven. **(Titus 3:4-5; Rom 3:21, 25-26)**
 - b. How one lives! **(1 John 1:6-7)**
 - c. The idea of being a saint or sanctified is a similar concept.
- B. What is the Christian to do when hurt by another Christian?
 - 1. Every response must be guided by love. **(1 Peter 4:8)**
 - a. Love will in many cases melt a heart to repentance.
 - b. Love also may pursue a punitive action for the good of the transgressor. **(2 Thess 3:14-15)**
 - 2. There may be difference that require other Christians to become involved. **(Matt 18:15-17)**
 - 3. The Corinthians chose their "high road of un-involvement".
 - a. They were too proud to deal with problems. **(1 Cor 5:1-2)**
 - b. They did not have men who had developed the wisdom of God or else they would not use these men. **(6:5)**
 - c. God's wisdom will involve men in the building of others.
 - 4. We must protect the influence of the church. **(6:6)**
 - a. Unbelievers love to see Christians fight among themselves!
 - b. We cannot underestimate the damage done when we go to the world to solve our problems. **(Rom 2:24)**
 - c. The solution is not to ignore our problems either! **(1 Cor 5:1)**
 - d. Do we have godly men who will step forward?

5. God wants us to be spiritual, which of necessity means having ability to judge. **(1 Cor 5:12; 1 Cor 2:9)**
 - a. The apostles are spoken of as judging others. **(Matt 19:28)**
 - b. We are spoken of as “priests” and “kings”. **(1 Peter 2:9)**
 - c. In what sense do we “judge angels” and “the world”? **(2-3)**

II. Does My Desires Justify Sexual Immorality? (1 Cor 6:9-20)

- A. Christians have tried to justify immorality since the first century.
 1. Notice how many times we are warned against deception. **(1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 6:7; Eph 5:5-7)**
 2. There were sects that tried to say it was OK. **(Rev 2:6,14-15, 20)**
 3. In the denomination world they call it “justice love”.
 4. In the last three years I have dealt with several Christians who tried to justify “living together” with someone who they were not married. (Ex. Girl in Tuscaloosa)
 5. Satan only needs you to compromise for a while. In time you will not care.
 6. Fornication is the major reason our young fall away.
- B. Some tried to justify fornication because they “must fulfill their needs” **(6:12)**
 1. Their reasoning was that fornication was like eating food. No big deal!
 2. This reasoning left out God. There will be a judgment day. What will stand in that day? **(6:13-14)**
 3. What is the purpose of our bodies? **(6:13, 18-19)**
- C. Consequences of fornication.
 1. It affects your relationship to God. **(6:15-16)**
 2. It affects your thinking. **(6:18)**
 3. It affects others.
 - a. This is truly a “dog eat dog” attitude.
 - b. I have seen men and women sacrifice everything so they can live with one and satisfy their lusts.
 - c. Young ladies, beware this kind of attention is temporary. **(2 Sam 13:2, 15)**
 4. It affects your body. **(1 Cor 6:18-19)**
- D. Flee fornication! **(1 Cor 6:18; Matt 5:27-30)**

Conclusion: What does the death of Christ mean to you? **(1 Cor 6:20)**

1. When we come out of the world, we know how vain that life is. **(Rom 6:21; Rom 13:11-14)**
2. The Christian life is the only way to live. Will you trust God?