**1 Corinthians 4-6**

Today’s Summary: Don’t you know we will judge angels? And the world? How much more are we to judge each other in the Church? That is what Paul is pleading with us today to get. To be so self-governing and self-judging – in love of course – inside the Church – that we purify the Bride so she is white and the brightest light reflecting Christ Himself for the world to see. That is why we flee from sexual impurity, greed, lying, homosexuality, drunkenness, slander, idolatry and every other sin that separates us from the Love of God and each other. Church discipline is love – it is the best kind of love, for the sole purpose of saving souls for eternity.

The Nature of True Apostleship

**4**This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. **2**Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. **3**I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. **4**My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. **5**Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

**6**Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. **7**For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

**8**Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign - and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! **9**For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. **10**We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! **11**To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. **12**We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; **13**when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world - right up to this moment.

Paul’s Appeal and Warning

**14**I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. **15**Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. **16**Therefore I urge you to imitate me. **17**For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

**18**Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. **19**But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. **20**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. **21**What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?

Dealing With a Case of Incest

**5**It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father’s wife. **2**And you are proud! Shouldn’t you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? **3**For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. **4So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 5hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.**

**6**Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? **7**Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch - as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **8**Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

**9**I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people - **10**not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. **11**But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

**12**What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13**God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

Lawsuits Among Believers

**6**If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people? **2**Or do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? **3**Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! **4**Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? **5**I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? **6**But instead, one brother takes another to court - and this in front of unbelievers!

**7**The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? **8**Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. **9**Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men **10**nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **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.

Sexual Immorality

**12**“I have the right to do anything,” you say - but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything” - but I will not be mastered by anything. **13**You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. **14**By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. **15**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! **16**Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” *(Genesis 2:24)* **17**But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

**18**Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. **19**Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20**you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.