RE-VIEW
Weekly Devotionals

"LIVING LIKE WE BELONG TO JESUS"

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Situation

The believers in Corinth were taking one another to court over disputes instead of seeking wise help within the church. Some were even cheating their fellow believers. Paul confronted them because the problem went deeper than legal disagreements: the way they treated one another did not reflect their shared identity in Christ. They were members of the same spiritual family, yet they were treating each other like enemies.

Imagine two people from the same church who disagree over payment for a home repair. One believes the work was unfinished; the other insists the full amount is owed. Instead of talking honestly and inviting a trusted, impartial believer to help them work toward a fair resolution, they begin attacking each other's character. Friends take sides, angry messages are exchanged, and winning becomes more important than doing what is right. What began as a disagreement over money becomes a conflict that damages relationships throughout the church.

Paul challenged the Corinthians to recognize that winning a lawsuit could still mean losing something far more important. Their willingness to wrong one another and fight publicly was already a spiritual defeat. He urged them to value faithfulness over personal advantage—even to be willing to suffer a loss rather than wrong a fellow believer. His challenge was not simply to settle disagreements more quietly, but to stop treating one another unjustly.

The passage ends with a reminder of what Jesus had done for them. After naming sinful patterns that do not belong in God's kingdom, Paul reminded the believers that those patterns no

longer defined who they were. Through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, they had been cleansed, made holy, and made right with God. Their new identity was meant to shape their everyday choices—including how they handled money, disagreements, and relationships with one another.

Scripture

ReVisit - **1 Corinthians 6:1-11, NLT**

When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! **2** Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? **3** Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. **4** If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? **5** I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? **6** But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers!

7 Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? **8** Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers.

9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, **10** or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. **11** Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Additional Scriptures to Look Up This Week:

- **Matthew 18:15–17** — Seek restoration.
- **Galatians 6:1** — Help others turn from sin with humility.
- **1 Peter 1:15–16** — Let your conduct reflect God
- **James 5:19–20** — Care enough to help someone.

Truth

Belonging to Jesus changes more than what we believe; it changes how we treat people, especially when we disagree. **It is easy to speak about grace when relationships are comfortable.** Conflict reveals whether that grace is shaping our hearts. When money, reputation, or personal rights are at stake, we face a choice: will we reflect the character of Christ, or will we do whatever it takes to win?

Paul challenged the Corinthians because they were allowing their disputes to become an excuse to wrong one another. Their problem was not simply that they disagreed. It was that selfishness and dishonesty were shaping their response. We can become so focused on proving someone else wrong that we stop asking whether our own actions honor God. Winning does not make us right if we have used sinful means to get there.

Following Jesus means valuing integrity more than personal advantage. Sometimes that requires admitting fault, returning what we owe, or accepting a loss rather than retaliating. Seeking peace does not mean pretending wrongdoing is acceptable. It means pursuing what is right without becoming dishonest, cruel, or consumed by revenge. We need humility to acknowledge our part and wisdom to seek help when we cannot resolve a conflict ourselves.

Paul's warning about sin also leads to a reminder of grace: their former way of life no longer defined them. They had been cleansed, made holy, and made right with God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Their past was real, but it was not their identity. Neither their old habits nor the pressure of a present disagreement had to determine how they lived.

The same grace that gives us a new beginning calls us to a different response. Because we belong to Jesus, we do not have to let pride, greed, or resentment direct our choices. We can tell the truth, take responsibility, and seek reconciliation wherever possible. Our relationships become an opportunity to show that Christ is changing not only what we say, but how we live.

Application

Think about a disagreement or strained relationship in your life. What matters most to you right now—honoring God, reaching a fair resolution, protecting your reputation, or proving that you are right? Bring your motives honestly before God. Ask Him to show you where pride, resentment, or the desire to win may be shaping your response.

Examine your own actions before focusing on the other person's faults. Have you spoken unfairly, exaggerated what happened, withheld something you owe, or involved people who do not need to be part of the conflict? Take responsibility for what belongs to you. A sincere apology, an honest payment, or a decision to stop repeating the story may be your next step toward obedience.

Where it is safe and appropriate, seek a direct, respectful conversation rather than allowing frustration to grow through gossip or angry messages. **Listen carefully, speak truthfully, and aim for understanding rather than victory.** If you need help, invite a trustworthy, impartial person to guide the conversation. Seeking peace does not require hiding abuse, ignoring threats, or avoiding appropriate legal protection.

Consider whether there is a personal preference or advantage you can release rather than continuing a destructive fight. Not every disagreement requires you to have the last word. At the same time, accepting a loss should be a willing act of faith—not something used to pressure another person into accepting mistreatment.

Finally, remember who you are in Christ. Your past does not have to control your present response. You have received grace, and you can let that grace shape your next conversation, decision, or action. Choose one practical step this week that reflects your new identity: make the apology, correct the dishonesty, seek wise help, or begin a peaceful conversation.

Prayer

Father, thank You for cleansing us and giving us a new identity through Jesus. Help us reflect Your grace, especially when disagreements reveal pride or resentment in our hearts.

Give us humility to admit when we are wrong, courage to make things right, and wisdom to seek help. Teach us to value faithfulness more than winning.

Guide our words, help us listen, and keep us from gossip and retaliation. Show us how to pursue peace without hiding wrongdoing. Let Your Spirit shape our choices so others can see Jesus in how we treat one another.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.