MESSY GRACE: **1 Cor wk 6 – New Ownership**

**They lived in a city that had a reputation for being wild. People would travel there to gamble, party, mess around, and go home. Then it happened people started saying yes to Jesus - that’s Corinth**

**They were a church struggling to live for Jesus in a culture that was pulling them in another direction… sounds like us.**

**People from diff. backgrounds coming together - but not everything is care bears and rainbows. Things happen, people mistreat each other. How do you treat family that is driving you crazy?**

**A divisive disputes and simple principles**

**1 Corinthians 6:1** **If any of you has a dispute (legal matters) with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly (unbelievers) for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people? (this is also a great case for Christ centered counseling) 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!**

**There was an issue in the church - believers suing other believers**

**Can you not deal with this as people lead by the Holy Spirit? You have the mind of Christ for crying out loud!**

**He says - v.2 You will judge the world and – v.3 you will judge angels?**

**Our future destiny includes sentencing fallen angels. The ones who condemn you now, you will be their judge with Christ!**

**Jesus made a way of redemption for you not fallen angels.**

**Notice it says - “competent to judge trivial cases”**

**This is not about settling criminal activity in house or dealing with things secretly - shuffle under the rug. Churches have been guilty of this – people get away with abuse.**

**NEW FAMILY**

**1 Cor 6:4 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? (you’re telling me no one in church can resolve this) 6 But instead, one brother takes another to court - and this in front of unbelievers! (This is embarrassing, we can’t even get along. This is not anti-court, thank God for our system.) 7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. (bound to your need to be right – you’re already in bondage to pride) Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? (rather than suing each other, accept that you’ve been done wronged - instead of being vindictive - but) 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. (you’re doing the same to defend yourself - there is no place for dishonest dealings in church)**

**A simple principle – Christians should not sue other Christians**

**Especially those in your church family. If at all possible, try to work out a solution. The civil courts are a final and last step. Don’t be petty.**

**This can ruin families - Have you ever remained friends with someone you sued? Would you ever want to see them daily?**

**We must learn to wisely and effectively deal with conflicts that arise within our church community**

**\*\*Again This of course excludes outright criminal & dangerous activity.**

**Rom 13:3-4 Paul says God gives the court system to help and protect us.**

**They had failed to address difficult issues to the point it became a legal issue. We cannot hide from confrontation - It can grow into incredible division. (echoes back to ch 5 & Matt 18)**

**This next part is a hard pill to swallow and can lead to confusion**

**We are given a NEW FAMILY – now we have a NEW WALK**

**Next couple verses are controversial, powerful & beautiful**

**Something POWERFUL**

**In regard to the divisive and vindictive people Paul explains… 1 Cor 6:9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers (wicked / unrighteous) will not inherit the kingdom of God? (yeah for sure – but who determines what is wicked?) Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men (some read two words effeminate and homosexual) 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (This is authoritative)**

**Simple principle - living like the world results in the worlds judgement**

**If you are a Christian, you are to live differently Why? Because we see the world differently in every part of our life.**

**Paul mentions at 9 areas to reflect on – things we don’t like to accept. \*\* The Old Life List (1 Cor 6:9-10, Eph 5:1-21, 1 Thess 4:3-8)**

* **Sexually immoral (pornia): Sexual activity outside of God’s design**

**Any sexual activity outside marriage**

* **Idolater: Worshipping a false God (whether by name or principle)**
* **Adulterer: Unfaithfulness in marriage (common lifestyle then)**
* **Effeminate / male prostitute – willingly receives homosexual acts**
* **Homosexual / sodomite – those who perform homosexual acts**

**GK word used used for all homosexual behavior**

* **Thieves: Stealing - secret theft.**
* **Greedy: Obsessing over the need to have more – rarely satisfied**
* **Drunkard: Pattern of intoxication - under the influence drunk/ high**
* **Slanderer: Verbally abusive – attacks another with words**
* **Swindler: Cheat, deceiving, fraud, take advantage (taxes, bids, job)**

**Are you known as someone who does this? Keep in mind - These are not at all about people who stumble or struggle - but embrace.**

**This verse simply says - If someone who says they are a Christian, embraces a life like this, don’t be deceived they may not truly be a Christian and will not inherit the Kingdom.**

**1 Cor 6:9 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.**

**Then he says - Something BEAUTIFUL**

**11 And that is what some of you were. (remember what 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. (One of the most powerful and beautiful; verses in the bible “that is what some of you were!”)**

**A simple principle – God can touch and change anyone – even you**

**Titus 3:5, Acts 22:16, Romans 13:1-4, Acts 25:10-11, Colossians 1:22, Ep h5:26**

**Regardless of who you are who, where you’ve been, or what you’ve done! Or who that person is…**

**That was you - 1 Cor 6:11b 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. (tri-u)**

* **You have been:**

**Washed: Completely made clean – made new, clean! That sin is gone!**

**Sanctified: Set apart for a purpose – your destiny and your journey!**

**Like a kid licking their fingers for ownership = that is mine! It is now set apart for that person. It is mine for my purpose.**

**Justified: Legally declared not guilty – just as if you never sinned. You have been found not guilty! But how??? Jesus and Grace! (Ro 3:28)**

**Whatever you’ve done – whatever you were – you were washed clean, forgiven, set apart, and declared not guilty.**

**Paul reminds us this was not cheap, this was at a huge price! The vile beauty of a bloody cross. “Jesus paid it all - All to him I owe - Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow”**

***We have a* NEW FAMILY, have a NEW WALK, because we have a**

**NEW LIFE - Washed – sanctified – justified – you are brand new!!!**

**We are not about rules - 1 Cor 6:12 “I have the right to do anything,” you say (true) - but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything” (true) - but I will not be mastered by anything. (this will come up again later in the letter)**

**This is not about legalism or lawlessness. This challenge to live a new life - not about rules, but by grace. A deep fundamental change that takes place inside - rippling out to every area of our life (rock tossed in)**

**…not everything is beneficial… and I will not be mastered by anything.**

**Two questions to ask when faced with a choice. Ask yourself:**

**1. Is this helpful for me (to know God, my family, spiritual life)**

**2. Will it master me? (has potential to control or enslave me)**

**Paul transitions into talking about another personal area of life.**

**1 Cor 6:13 You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, (my body wants food so I eat – my body wants sex, so I have sex with who I want or hire a prostitute) and God will destroy them both.” (God has a purpose for our body)**

**We are not created to follow whatever feelings, urges, or cravings we have. Imagine if we followed every craving?**

**The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality (pornia – sexual activity outside God’s purpose and design) 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. (Our body will be made new one day, just like Jesus resurrected body. It has a future purpose and has a now purpose) 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?**

**If you are a Christian, we are a family of physical bodies, look around – those who are His in the room - we are Christ’s body.**

**15b Shall I then take the members of Christ (my body) 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.” (Gen 2:24) 17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.**

**A simple principle – God has a design and purpose for our body**

**Your physical body and the things you are meant to do with it have a design crafted by God.**

**We are to learn & grow in the God purpose and design.**

**Its misuse is dangerous – ladder fails – instruction guide.**

**Paul mentioned Homosexuality earlier – let’s talk about it.**

**We may wish it was diff, but this is the design God has for us**

**You might think, that was old fashioned / homophobic culture No, actually just the opposite. It was normal & rampant. 14 of the 1st 15 Roman emperors were bisexual. It was common for men to have sex with men and children – and to marry them.**

**Paul was pointing to God’s unique design and purpose for our body and sexuality. We either accept what the bible says or we ignore it.**

**You must ask yourself – do you really believe the bible?**

**I want to talk a little about the purpose of our body in regard to sex.**

**Genesis 2:24 For this reason (for this reason and cause alone) a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (context of Adam & Eve - Malachi 2, Ephesians 5:31, 1 Cor 6:16, 11:3)**

* **Marriage is a gift given to a man and a woman**
* **Sex is to be between a man and a woman**
* **Sex is for marriage only – as a gift and glue**

**(some will Jesus never spoke on the gay issues…) Mark 10:7-8, Matthew 19:4 Jesus answered, “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason (this cause alone) a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate.”**

**This is in no way meant to attack how you feel, but to affirm how you were formed. Designed with purpose and beauty.**

**Paul tell us this is design applies to us all - 1 Cor 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. (we are not to flee sex – just pornia) All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. (meaning it has spiritual and physical consequences)**

**Simple principle- If you’re a Christian you are to live sexually pure lives**

**Why is sexual sin highlighted so much in scripture – because it is incredibly painful to deal with outside of God’s plan.**

**The sexual ties and tears it causes.**

**Don’t flirt with it - FLEE from it - Don’t dance with it, RUN from it! It will cause you incredible pain. I’ve seen it - Sex can ruin a good relationship and prolong a bad relationship.**

**Run from that sexually active relationship - it is outside of God plan and design to protect and strengthen your marriage & life.**

**1 Cor 6:13 - The body, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.**

**This is not an against issue, this is a for issue. God is for you!**

**God is rooting for you! He made you! Love you! Is for you!**

**Here is what it all comes down to**

**1 Cor 6:19 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. (that price – the blood of Jesus - powerful!) Therefore, honor God with your bodies.**

**Simple principle- If you’re a Christian your body belongs to the LORD**

**Our spirit and body belong to the LORD**

**If you are a Christian, your body is under new management and ownership. You have been bought, paid for, renovated, and restored – to live in his design and purpose.**

**What you do with your body matters - how you treat your body matters. What you put in your body matters. Substance abuse.**

**This is a reference to the temple of God in Jerusalem. The place before Jesus the Spirit dwelt. God on earth. Took great care of it.**

**NOW – you are that temple – God lives in you - Christians! His new dwelling place is you. The HS is that shekinah glory in us.**

**We are the body together – you are His body alone. In public and private moments of our life - What we do matters, what you do matters.**

**The New Family, New Walk , New Life - Walk-Away’s**

**1 Corinthians 6:1-8,12-20, 1 John 3:1-10, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17**

**1 Put family first in your fights**

**for sake of the family deal w/ it or drop it**

**2 Put family first in your freedoms**

**for the sake of yourself and the kingdom – use discernment**

**True freedom does not mean we can do what we want when we want - Rather it means we’re able to pursue God’s best.**

**3 Put family first in our sexuality**

**for the sake of others and yourself – this can derail your faith**

**Next week – some more mature content from Paul and a very misunderstood passage about being single.**