

"UNDERSTANDING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE"

1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-20

INTRO: There is a problem that persists within the realm of Christianity that has existed since the BIRTH OF THE CHURCH in Acts 2. And that is the fact that **many, if not most Christians DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

They know that they are **SAVED FROM SIN AND HELL** and **ARE BOUND FOR HEAVEN**, but many of the elements of their CHRISTIAN LIFE they fail to understand. **That results in DEFEATED CHRISTIAN LIVING!** Let's examine the scriptures to see what it says about the **REALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

OBSERVATION: In 1 Corinthians 6 there are **FIVE "KNOW YE NOTS"** that every believer should digest.

- 1) "**KNOW YE NOT**" that we should not take our Brothers and sisters to a Court of Law - Vss. 1-7
- 2) "**KNOW YE NOT**" that the Unrighteous (Unsaved) will not Inherit the Kingdom of God Vss. 9,10
- 3) "**KNOW YE NOT**" that our Body belongs to Christ - Vs. 15
- 4) "**KNOW YE NOT**" that illicit sex creates a union of one Body - Vs. 16
- 5) "**KNOW YE NOT**" that our Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit - Vss. 19,20

SOME THINGS TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

I. AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHO WE WERE - VSS. 9,10,11a

- A. We Were Unrighteous - **Born in Sin and apart from God's Holiness**
- B. We Were Unholy - **Unholy in Position and Practice**
 1. Our Position - **"Dead in Trespasses and Sin"** - Ephesians 2:1
 2. Our Practice - **A Life Characterized by Sin** - Vss. 9,10

A SAMPLE LIST OF SINS DESCRIBING THE UNSAVED CONDITION

(One of numerous lists found in scripture)

- 1) Fornicators - Sexual Sin before Marriage
- 2) Idolaters- Worship of False Gods
- 3) Adulterers - Sexual sin after Marriage
- 4) Effeminate - Homosexuality
- 5) Abusers of Themselves - Homosexuality, Tranvestism, Sex Changes, etc.
- 6) Thieves - Those who Steal.
- 7) Covetous - Those who lust after that which belongs to others
- 8) Drunkards - Those who are given to Alcohol
- 9) Revilers - Those who destroy others with Words
- 10) Extortioners - Those who Swindle and Embezzle

NOTE: **"AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU"** - Vs. 11a

- **Some at the Church of Corinth**
- **Some in our Presence Today**

RESULT: **"SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD"**

-The Sphere of God's Dominion over those who belong to Him

-Cp. John 3:1-7

II. AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE ARE - VS. 11b

- A. We Are "WASHED"

NOTE: This refers to NEW LIFE through SPIRITUAL CLEANSING and REGENREATION.

-**Spiritually Washed in the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ**

-Titus 3:5; 1 John 1:7

- B. We are "SANCTIFIED"

NOTE: This results in NEW BEHAVIOR which a WASHED AND TRANSFORMED LIFE always produces. Sin's TOTAL DOMINATION is broken and REPLACED by a PATTERN OF HOLY LIVING.

1. Our Position - **We are "set apart" unto God as His Possession.**
2. Our Practice - **We are to be "set apart" from the WORLD in our lifestyle.**
3. Our Prospect - **We will be "set apart" with God for eternity in Heaven**

- C. We are "JUSTIFIED"

NOTE: This refers to the NEW STANDING we have with God through FAITH in JESUS CHRIST in which God **DECLARES us NOT GUILTY OF SIN** through our faith in Christ.

OBSERVATION: All of this is possible "BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD" Who is the **AGENT OF OUR SALVATION** - John 3:3-5

III. AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE SHARE - VS. 12

NOTE: As BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS we SHARE **THREE PRINCIPLES** that must be applied to our every day Christian living.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS TO UNDERSTAND

1) SALVATION DID NOT COME TO US BY THE LAW, BUT BY GRACE.

2) SALVATION IS NOT A LIST OF DO'S AND DON'TS AS WAS THE CASE UNDER TO LAW.

A. Principle One: "**ALL THINGS ARE NOT EXPEDIENT**" (Verse 12a)

-Even though Christianity is NOT a list of DO'S AND DON'TS, many things we should avoid because they are NOT PROFITABLE to the Christian life.

1. For our Spiritual Growth
2. For our Testimony
3. For the Glory of God

B. Principle Two: "**ALL THINGS ARE TO BE EVALUATED**" (Verse 12b)

-Victorious Christianity will not be lived under the POWER OF ANY SIN. Thus, daily, we would do well to evaluate our lives to see what is "driving" us.

C. Principle Three: "**ALL THINGS DO NOT EDIFY**" (1 Corinthians 10:23)

-In our Christian living, we should AVOID anything that will not BUILD UP OTHERS in the faith.

LESSON/APPLICATION

1) Are YOU truly Saved?

2) Are YOU truly Living Biblically?