


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Lawsuits Among Believers

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Q1. How do you define humility?

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Q2. How do you define selfishness?

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Q3. In teaching a new Believer, how would you explain “in humility consider others better than yourselves”?

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Philippians 2:4

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Q4. What does Philippians 2:4 mean to you?

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Q5. How exclusive are Paul’s words? Does Paul’s words in his Epistle (letter) to the Philippians in verses 2:3-4 apply exclusively to members of your church, or to Believers in general, or to people of your political party, or . . . to something else?

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Matthew 22:35-40

³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?

Q6. Who is Paul’s audience? Believers? Or non-believers?

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Q7. Who are the “saints”?

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Q8. Why did Paul want to keep the “dirty laundry” within the church body?


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Q9. The result of a secular court is to determine a winner... and a loser. When one Believer is pitted against another, are adversarial proceedings in the best interest of the church?

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 Perhaps, the following verses from Romans 14:1, 10, &13 provide insight into Paul’s concerns?


Romans 14:1

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Q10. What might be examples of “disputable matters”?

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 In 1st Corinthians 8, we will study the following verses 7-13 in greater detail. Verses 7-13 are repeated here to illustrate an example of “disputable matters” intertwined with Paul’s concern that we ‘mature’ Believers might squelch an ‘infant’ Believer over inconsequential topics that have no bearing on a person’s salvation. We humans are an impatient bunch and Believers also suffer from the ‘impatient’ character trait. We Believers tend to know better and do not like to wait for the Holy Spirit to perform His work within the heart of a new Believer – “I only want to help’ and then we wonder why it didn’t work out. Admittedly, it is a balancing act that must be immersed in prayer, Scripture reading(s), and obedience to the whispers of the Holy Spirit, Who dwells within each of us who believe [Ephesians 1:13-14].

1 Corinthians 8:7-13

⁷ But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

Romans 14:10

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Romans 14:13

¹³ Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Q11. If we are to serve one another, does “passing judgment” demonstrate a servant attitude?

Q12. Are we to never take any Believer or non-believer to court?

James 2:13 [The writer James is the half-brother of our Lord Jesus]


because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

Matthew 5:38-40 [Our Lord Jesus taught on the subject of revenge and lawsuits:]

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth' [Jesus quoted Exodus 21:24]. ³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

2a Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?

Q13. Simple answers: Who “will judge the world”? And when will this occur: “the saints will judge the world”?

Who?

When?

Q14. If “Saints” are Believers, how will Believers become qualified to “judge”?

2b And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

Q15. Who will be enlisted to “judge the world”?

Revelation 3:21

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

John 5:22

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

Revelation 11:17-18

¹⁷ saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great — and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

Q16. Please restate verse-3 in your own words.

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Jude 1:6

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. [See also 2 Peter 2:4, below]

2 Peter 2:1-5 [The Message (MSG)]

¹⁻² But there were also lying prophets among the people then, just as there will be lying religious teachers among you. They'll smuggle in destructive divisions, pitting you against each other — biting the hand of the One who gave them a chance to have their lives back! They've put themselves on a fast downhill slide to destruction, but not before they recruit a crowd of mixed-up followers who can't tell right from wrong.

²⁻³ They give the way of truth a bad name. They're only out for themselves. They'll say anything, anything, that sounds good to exploit you. They won't, of course, get by with it. They'll come to a bad end, for God has never just stood by and let that kind of thing go on.

⁴ God didn't let the rebel angels off the hook, but jailed them in hell till Judgment Day. ⁵ Neither did he let the ancient ungodly world off. He wiped it out with a flood, rescuing only eight people — Noah, the sole voice of righteousness, was one of them.

⁴Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!

Q17. What does the description “men of little account” mean to you?

⁵I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?


Q18. What do you think Paul would say is required to pass judgment on a dispute?

⁶But instead, one brother goes to law against another — and this in front of unbelievers!

⁷The 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? ⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

Q19. (Referring to verses 6-8) What do you think caused Paul the greatest concern? And why?

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Q20. What would you say to a fairly new Believer, who reads this passage and says, “I thought Jesus died for my sins so that I appear to Father as if I had never sinned, even though I do love the nice things and comforts of this world”? Or “I thought Jesus died for my sins, but I cannot stop myself from ogling handsome men (or beautiful women)”? Or “I thought Jesus died for my sins, but I love watching all kinds of sports, every moment of the day”? What role does obedience play, if any? (What are idols?)

Luke 5:31-32


³¹ Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1 John 1:8-10

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

 If you struggle with a sin, do you pray for relief, for the ability and obedience to overcome the sin? Both our Lord Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit promise to intercede for each of us if we ask; if we confess; if we repent; if we express a heartfelt desire to be rid of the sin. Sometimes, we can ask once and our desire to commit that particular sin is removed. Other times we must fervently pray for – what seems like years. We can also ask another Believer(s) to pray for us. We must not give up hope. Sin is pernicious and sometimes through our struggle we can eventually see God at work to help us overcome our temptations. God is GOOD! All the time!

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore he [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints [Believers] in accordance with God's will.

1 Timothy 2:1-3


¹ I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone – ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

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.

Q21. What does Paul mean, when he says, "that is what some of you were"?


Q22. What does it mean to be "washed... sanctified... and justified"?

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Sexual Immorality

¹² "Everything is permissible for me" — but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me" — but I will not be mastered by anything.

 Frankly, I had trouble understanding the NIV translation of verse 12. The Message and the King James Version helped me to better understand:

1 Corinthians 6:12 [The Message (MSG)]

Just because something is technically legal doesn’t mean that it’s spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I’d be a slave to my whims.

1 Corinthians 6:12 [King James Version (KJV)]

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Q23. How can we “not be mastered by anything”?

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Q24. Can we accomplish “not be mastered by anything” by ourselves, our own self-will?

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¹³ "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food" — but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

Q25. How will God destroy both the stomach... and food?

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Q26. What does this mean, “[our] body is...meant... for the Lord”?

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¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

Q27. Do you consider the words of verse-14 a promise? Why or why not?

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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!

Q28. How can our bodies be “members of Christ himself”?

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Q29. What “religion” was centered in Corinth?

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 Aphrodite had a festival of her own, the Aphrodisiac (also referred to as Aphrodisia), which was celebrated all over Greece but particularly in Athens and Corinth. In Corinth, intercourse with her priestesses was considered a method of worshipping Aphrodite. [Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aphrodite>]

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."

Q30. Is this verse applicable only to “prostitutes”?

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Matthew 19:4-6

⁴ "Haven't you read," He replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'
⁵ and said, 'For this reason 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. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Ephesians 5:29-32

²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Q31. Our society teaches that a couple can ‘live together’ before marriage. Does the Bible permit an unmarried Believing couple to live together or, if living apart, to engage in pre-marital sexual relations?


Q32. Society has argued that if something is not specifically forbidden in the Holy Bible, then it must be permissible; is this an accurate interpretation?

Q33. How are we Believers to address societal sin? Pagan sin?

¹⁷ But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Q34. How can we be united with the Lord?

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple 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 body.

Q35. What does the word “flee” mean to you?

Q36. How are we to respond to the temptation of sexual immorality?

Q37. If a person is “bought at a price”, what does that make that person?

Q38. What is the “price” referred to in the phrase “bought at a price” (in verse 20)?

Q39. How can we “honor God with your body”?


Romans 6:5-7

⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — ⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Q40. Has Paul ever used the metaphor that equates Believers to “God’s temple”?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

 When Paul wants to ensure that readers understand key concepts, he will repeat those ideas. He wanted the Corinthians to understand that they were “God’s temple” and that they were indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

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