

The Royal Route to Heaven

1 Corinthians Chapter 6

Chapter 6 of 1 Corinthians asks six questions of the reader, each beginning with the words “*Do you not know...?*” These words imply that Paul is stating truths that the reader should already know. Alan Redpath divides these questions into two divisions: “Remember what you are...” and “Remember to Whom you belong...” As you study this chapter keep these divisions in mind.

Pray that this study will reaffirm your understanding of these truths and direct you as you walk each day on this Royal Route.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. You might want to underline them in your Bible.

1. We see several words that we have already considered. We noted *brethren* as a key word in chapter 1 and see it here in verses 5 and 8. We also saw *judge* as a key word in chapter 4 and see it here in verses 2-4. Take time to review the previous definitions you have for these words, or write new ones here, and note their use in this chapter.

2. There are two new words found in this chapter that are related, but different. Let’s look closer at them. Define each and share your thoughts on how they are related.

a. members (verses 15)

b. joined (verses 16-17)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11.

This section of Chapter 6 deals with our first division of questions - “Remember what you are...”

1. First, write each of the “*Do you not know...?*” questions below.

a. 1 Corinthians 6:2

b. 1 Corinthians 6:3

c. 1 Corinthians 6:9

2. Now let's go back to 1 Corinthians 6:1 and look at the problem Paul is addressing. It seems that some in the church had disputes.

a. Where were they taking their disputes?

b. Where did Paul say they should have taken their disputes?

3. Remember the division of this "what are you..." What does 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 say about "what you are"?

4. It is not totally clear what is meant by, "...we shall judge the angels", but we know from scripture that saints will judge. What does Matthew 19:28-29 say about the saints?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:4-6 again. What do the following scriptures have to say about the resources a believer has to make judgments in disputes that the unbeliever does not have?

a. Psalm 119:105

b. John 14:26

c. 1 Corinthians 2:16

6. We must also consider our witness to the world as they observe the church taking their disputes to the law of this world to judge. Consider the following as we look for the godly way to approach disputes.

a. What steps do you find in Matthew 18:15-17 for Christians to take to resolve conflicts among ourselves?

- b. What did Jesus say in John 13:35 about how we should deal with one another and why?
- c. How do public disputes between believers affect the church's witness?

Alan Redpath said, "Of course, that does not mean that a Christian must never go to the law. There may be circumstances when it is necessary. But disputes and divisions among brethren should be settled within the church and not outside it."

7. Having read what Paul has to say about how the believers were improperly dealing with disputes among themselves, answer the following.

- a. What alternative behavior is suggested in 1 Corinthians 6:7?
- b. Instead of this right response, what does 1 Corinthians 6:8 say they were doing?

8. Consider 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 describing the unrighteous people they were taking their disputes to for judgement.

- a. What were they warned not to be deceived about?
- b. Describe what it means to be deceived.
- c. List the description of the unrighteous given in these verses.

9. Considering that we started by saying that this section of Chapter 6 centered on the reminder, "Remember what you are..." We end this section with verse 11, that brings it all together.

- a. First, write what they (and we) were from verse 11.
- b. Still from verse 11, how were we brought out of that state of unrighteousness?
- c. Define each of the words you wrote above.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.

This section of Chapter 6 deals with our second division of questions - “Remember to Whom you belong...”

1. Twice we find the same statement in 1 Corinthians 6:12, “*all things are lawful for me...*” How do the following scriptures help explain this statement?

a. Acts 10:9-16

b. Romans 6:14

c. Galatians 3:13

d. Colossians 2:14-17

2. Now look again at 1 Corinthians 6:12, noting the two “*but...*” statements that follow “*All things are lawful for me...*” Write what each means to you.

a. *...but not all things are helpful.*

b. *...but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

3. What does Romans 6:12 add to the thought expressed in 1 Corinthians 6:12.

4. Verse 13 continues with two statements about the body.

a. What is the body NOT for?

b. Who is the body for?

c. What encouragement do you find in verse 14?

5. You might want to look back to the first page where you defined the key words “*members*” and “*joined*”. In verses 15-17 we see these words used.

a. What does it mean to you to be *members* of Christ and *joined* to the Lord?

b. Now read verses 15 and 16 again and explain what Paul is saying about the relationship with a harlot in reference to being a *member* and being *joined*. Note that this is the same whether it is a woman or a man in the immoral relationship.

6. Paul has made it very clear to all readers of the seriousness of the sin of immorality. He also gives the plain and simple solution. Write the first three words from 1 Corinthians 6:18 below.

7. The clear and concise reason for not partaking in any bodily immorality is laid out as we conclude Chapter 6 with Paul’s words in verses 19 and 20.

a. What truth is stated about your body?

b. From 1 Peter 1:18-19, what was the price paid for us?

c. Complete the conclusion sentence in 1 Corinthians 6:20: “*Therefore...*”

8. Write any further thoughts you have from the following verses.

a. Romans 6:13

b. Romans 12:1

c. 1 Corinthians 10:31

In closing...

As we come to the end of this chapter, remember the main divisions, “Remember what you are...” and “Remember to Whom you belong...”

1. 1 Corinthians 6:11 says, “*And such were some of you.*” Stop now and consider who you were before Christ and who you are now in Christ. You might make note of some of the changes and be sure to write a prayer of thanks for all the Lord has done for you!

2. Can you think of a situation where there may be something that is lawful but you have abstained because it was not helpful? Explain how abstaining was helpful.

3. Remembering to Whom you belong, how does the understanding that your body is not your own and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you help you to avoid or run from bodily or immoral sin?

4. Why is it important to understand what it means to be a member of Christ and how would you explain it to new believer?