

# Transformed Thinking, Choices and Behavior

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Pastor Guy Gray

## What You Were and What You Are

Our study in 1 Corinthians has brought us to street level. We have come to the place where our faith in Christ must be applied to the moral choices of our daily life experience. That means our faith in Christ must impact our thinking and behavior in every area of life—including our sexuality, our view of money and of things as well as our relationships with family, friends, co-workers and fellow believers. The reason for this is simple: Jesus is Lord. Jesus has rescued us from our guilt and sin. Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit into our lives to transform us so that our lives might become more and more conformed to His life and His character.

This is the key to our passage and the key to all true Christian morality. It is the contrast between “what you were” and “what you are” that sets the stage for real transformation in your life. The ultimate question is—how do you see yourself right now in your life. Do you see yourself as forgiven and set free by Christ? Do you see yourself as having received a new life in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to be transformed? Do you see yourself as part of a spiritual community of Christ followers, a community that God is creating as a radical counterculture to the ways of this messed up world?

## What Do Lawsuits and Sexual Immorality Have in Common?

One of the strange things about 1 Corinthians 5-6 is how Paul changes focus from sexual immorality to inappropriate lawsuits and then back to sexual immorality once again. What do lawsuits and sexual immorality have in common? A lot, actually! To begin with, in both of these issues, the Corinthians have adopted a completely secular viewpoint instead of letting the Lordship of Christ influence their thinking and their choices. They were acting exactly like the culture around them in both of these areas of life.

In Chapter 6 Paul addresses the issue of their going to the secular courts against one another over trivial matters. This was a regular practice at Corinth. People basically sued each other all the time for almost any reason. The courts were notorious for being unfair. The wealthy could easily manipulate the system to get what they wanted. At the heart of this issue is the greed and self seeking of those who were suing each other. This is where the connection with sexual immorality comes in. The behavior was driven by self centered desire. It was an attitude that said, “my needs come first—I want what I want and I want it now!” This attitude is at the root of all kinds of sin in our lives. Paul shows them that they are acting just like people in the fallen culture and calls them instead to live up to their new life in Christ. In the process he shows them how they can begin to see the transformation of their thinking, their choices and their behavior.

## Transformed Thinking, Choices and Behavior

In order for the Corinthians to live out the reality of their new life in Christ they were going to have to adjust their perspective in some radical ways. Read the passage and see if you can find these themes as you read:

Think beyond immediate gratification—live from an eternal perspective

Think beyond personal “needs” and “rights”—live out the meaning of the Cross

Think beyond yourself—recognize the impact of your life choices on the community of Christ

Think beyond the old life and the values of the world—live as a new creation in Christ

These are the themes that begin to transform our thinking, choices and behavior as followers of Christ. Ask the Lord to transform your perspective that you might also begin to transform your choices and behavior. Don't ignore the sense of urgency in this passage.

This is crucial stuff! The time to get serious in your walk with Christ is right now! Don't wait! Take a step of faith and you will find that God will meet you right where you are with the power of His grace and life in Christ!

## Coming Up

### TODAY

#### HANDS & FEET MINISTRY

The opportunity is here to get involved with our Hands & Feet ministry. Jump in and see the change in your life and the lives of others! Sign ups start today in the foyer and will continue throughout the month.

### WOMAN'S RETREAT

Sign up today in the Fellowship Hall for the Women's Retreat, Feb 22-24, 2008 in Cannon Beach. Contact Sally Jo Brown for more information 697.1007

### SATURDAY 11/17

#### Ministry Prayer Time

8:00-9:00am @ RWLG, Fellowship Hall, If you would like to take a more active role in the heart of our church through prayer, come join us during this amazing time of seeking and rejoicing in Gods plans for us as a church and community of believers. For more information contact Pastor Adam at 699.2226 or adam@riverwwest.org

### WEDNESDAY 11/21

#### Thanksgiving Eve Service

6:30-8:00pm @ RWLG, Join us for a special night of worship, fellowship & gratitude on the Eve of Thanksgiving.

### SUNDAY 12/2

#### Introducing River West

7:00 @ RWLG, Want to know more about River West? Come have dinner & hear the story, the values & the vision of River West. Childcare is available for infant through 3rd grade with pre-registration only. For more information contact Pastor Adam at 699.2226 or adam@riverwest.org