

Know Ye Not?

1 Corinthians Chapter Six



~ This leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is going to provide, among other things, God's answer to a very basic and pressing question we all have concerning civil rights. This chapter of the Bible is a much larger subject than civil rights, though; covering the entire spectrum of the Christian responsibility to the secular governments we all find ourselves controlled by – and civil rights is a particularly important segment of the overall message Paul sent to the church at Corinth.

Contemporary believers seem to have a wildly misconstrued concept of the *"dual citizenship"* we have on earth and in Heaven. Paul says to the Philippians, *"....our conversation is in Heaven; from whence also we look for our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ"* The word for *"conversation"* is *"polituma."* So, the proper translation of Philippians chapter three at twenty is, *"....our POLITICS are in Heaven; from whence also we look for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!"* Now, let's be real, Heaven seems to be the farthest place in the universe from any politics today – even Christian politics.

Well, either way, our politics being in Heaven doesn't relieve our responsibility to the state. There is a very definite responsibility towards each. The Herodians pressed Jesus about taxes, you will recall, and Jesus said, *"render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars...."* So, we have a very definite responsibility to the state. Further, there is both a secular responsibility and a spiritual responsibility Christians have to the state of government that rules them. Paul defines the responsibility of the Christian to the state for us by stating certain guidelines that are impossible to misunderstand. We are told to be peaceful and law abiding; and that we

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are to recognize authority set over us; and, my friends, those principles are given to us so that we might get the Gospel out. No other reason for them.

1 Timothy 2: ¹ *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;* ² *For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.* ³ *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;* ⁴ *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth ~*

When we studied Romans chapter thirteen, we learned very definitely that we are “... *subject unto the higher powers because the powers that be are ordained of God!*” You must understand the Roman government was pure tyranny and abject corruption. Just about all of the Roman Emperors severely persecuted the church. If you even thought about opposing the Roman government, you had no future in Rome. You would simply disappear in the middle of the night, never to be heard from again. However, to a law-abiding citizen, there was still freedom to teach and preach the Word of God in Rome! I cannot tell you how important that is to understand.

Genesis 9: ⁶ *Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man ~*

So, the state is ordained of God without doubt according to Scripture. To maintain the dignity and respect for humanity and human life, capital punishment must be implemented according to proper Godly principles. I understand all about human error and the intrinsic evil that results from those errors; but that does not detract or diminish the need for capital punishment. What it does reveal is that we need more men who believe God and follow His Word in the prosecutor's office. We just happen to live in a time of abject lawlessness; and the reason for that borderline anarchy is because we have soft-hearted men running the government, who are thoroughly corrupted by their own sins, and compromised by their own

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crimes. I could go on and on about this subject, but we need to keep moving along now.

Of course, the church and state are to be kept separate; neither is to dominate, dictate to or control the other. Unfortunately, in a secular society, secularism always takes the place of God. That's our modern idolatry today, too, by the way. The Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ have been reduced to a parody in this day and age. Some people say "*.... science is my shepherd I shall not want!*" We find the church involved in every aspect of politics in this modern society – and visa versa – and, yet, the liberal says – and I quote – "*....to rebel against the law of the land can be creative and may save the world from stagnation; but to disobey the law may also lead to anarchy and the destruction of the legal system. Too easily can man convince himself that his opinion is the opinion of God!*" I think most of our statesmen today truly have themselves convinced that they speak in the place of God Almighty....

¹ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

~ This means one believer is not to take another believer to a secular court; and it is an instruction that Christians today entirely ignore. Anytime this happens, you may be sure of one thing: both sides lose; because the minute a Christian issue hits the secular legal mill, the mill cannot produce a correct resolution. Impossible. Church issues, particularly, should never be aired before unbelievers.

Our secular courts, judges and juries are not equipped to make spiritual decisions. A secular judge has no spiritual comprehension, discernment or interest in such things. They simply cannot comprehend certain spiritual principles; if they are even aware of those principles in the first place. I am truly sorrowful for the Christian who falls into the hands of the secular court system today. Unfortunately, when a church renders a verdict between two believers, the losing party never seems to accept said verdict!

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That means believers don't trust other believers as we should. A divorce between two professing believers is the worst possible scenario in the civil court system today; and, there is a very definite reason the unsaved world is to be kept out of Christian matters....

² Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

³ Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

⁴ If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

⁵ I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

⁶ But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

⁷ Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

~ Of course, believers have no other recourse outside of the secular courts against an unbeliever; so, that's not what we're talking about here. Believers *WHO SUFFER WITH CHRIST* are going to have a part in ruling this earth with the Lord Jesus Christ in that day; but, this is *NOT* the Great White Throne we're talking about, either. Christ handles the lost dead personally; however, Christians who have suffered for Christ will be commissioned to judge and adjudicate affairs on earth eternally. It's a serious responsibility.

When Paul asks the Corinthians, ".... *know ye not....?*" You can just write it down — they didn't know. This is Paul's polite way of saying ".... *you're ignorant!*" Now, verse three also contains a statement that I must confess I

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do not know the meaning of. What I do know is that man was made a little lower than the angels. Through redemption man is to be lifted to a place of fellowship with the Father that is above the angels. That means that even the fall of mankind into sin worked together for good in God's omnipotent plan. Somehow, the fall ultimately brings man to a higher position than he was previously in. Turn that over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with.

The old bromide that says *'the bird with the broken wing never flies so high again'* is not true. In the case of the broken Christian, they're going to fly **HIGHER!** In fact, we're going to fly **ABOVE** angels and we're going to judge them. Again, I do not understand that. Maybe you think you do – I don't; and I have considered myriad explanations thereof. Well, it's pretty important we learn how to judge from the Word of God properly because most so-called saints are absolutely clueless about this. I see a whole lot of judgment in religious circles today, and I'm here to tell you: most of them horribly miss correct judgment by miles. Actually, what goes on in the church today is quite shameful....

⁸ *Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.*

⁹ *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

¹⁰ *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

¹¹ *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

~ *"Sanctification"* in verse eleven means *'positional'* sanctification. These people had been born again; and they should have been willing to trust

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each other in judgment. We should trust our Christian brothers and sisters enough to submit to them today, too. Because we are '*justified*' we know the next Christian man's sins are just as forgiven as our own; he has had the same declaration of '*righteous*' made over him as we all have who are in Christ. Even so, there are many things a believer *COULD* do; but those things may not be good for them or for others – and, sometimes, others need to be judged. We should be willing to listen to the advice of other believers, too – and *TAKE* said advice....

¹² 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.

¹³ Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

¹⁴ And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

¹⁵ Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

¹⁷ But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

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²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

~ Our Spiritual Safari concludes this report on a remarkable note, which leads to our next report; and the next leg of our expedition will be all about sex! Remember, Paul was or had been married at one time. In our judgments of others, we need to make sure we have all the facts *AND* we must know how to extend the offer of mercy; they go hand in hand, or it isn't correct judgment. God had forgiven David, but David wasn't about to forgive Absalom, his own son, for the murder of his brother who had raped Tamar, his sister. Sure, it's ugly – as ugly as sin. Even so, if David had forgiven Absalom completely, I think the rebellion against David by Absalom would have been completely avoided. I hope you can continue with us through Corinthians because we have some outstanding truths ahead of us in this epistle ~

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