

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find interesting, helpful, confusing, disagreeable, convicting, etc this week?

1. Sunday, March 12; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 9-13; Sexual Immorality. What was the problem in the Corinthian church (1-2)? What was Paul's solution (3-5)? Was this reasonable? How would/should the situation be handled today? What are your personal thoughts about verse 5? What is the difference between a sexually immoral believer and a sexually immoral non-believer (9-13)? Why is it the church's responsibility to discipline those who are believers (11-12)?

Personal Application: How have you had to stand up for righteousness over sin in your life?

2. Monday, March 13; 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Get rid of Leaven of Sin and be Unleavened Bread. What type of boasting was going on (6)? What does yeast symbolize in scripture (8)? What does unleavened bread symbolize and why (7)? For what change of heart did Paul ask (8)? Do you or I have any "old yeast" malice or wickedness in our lives? How do you or I speak and act in sincerity and truth? **Personal Application:** In the time of lent, write a prayer asking God for a heightened awareness of sin and its negative effects on your life. Ask that the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth permeate your life instead.

3. Tuesday, March 14; 1 Cor. 6:1-11; Not Wrong to be Wronged. What was Paul's issue with the Corinthians in verse 1? Why were the Corinthians competent to judge civil cases among believers (2-3)? Would this practice work today? Are believers wise enough to give sound rulings in disputes against other believers (4-5)? Why was Paul against going to civil court (6)? Is this a worthy consideration today? Why is going to civil court a defeatist approach (7)? How do the tables turn when believers go to court (8)? What does it take for those mentioned in 9-10 to inherit the kingdom (see 11)?

Personal Application: Give a few sentence summary of God's opinion of civil court cases.

4. Wednesday, March 15; 1 Cor. 6:12-19; We Belong to Christ—Flee Sexual Immorality! What was the difference in belief about "rights" between the Corinthians and Paul (12)? Read Bible notes on 13. Why is sexual immorality offensive (13-14)? With Whom are you or I now united (15)? How does engaging in sexual immorality affect our union with Jesus Christ (15-17)? List practical ways you and I flee sexual immorality (18). What should be your body image or mine (19)? To Whom do we now belong? How high was the purchase price for this relationship? What is our daily goal (20)? **Personal Application:** Write down your list of practical ways to flee sexual immorality.

5. Thursday, March 16; 1 Cor. 7: 1-9; Sex in Marriage/Remaining Single. With whom should people have sexual relations and why (1-4)? In the marriage relationship, who gets to decide when to have sex (4)? When is it permissible not to be sexually active (5)? What was Paul's chosen status and why (6-8)? In singleness, what is a key fruit of the Spirit which Paul understood (9, 5)? **Personal Application:** Thank the Lord for your current status of singleness or marriage. How may you and I serve Him better in this state?

6. Friday, March 17; 1 Cor. 7:10-24; Unbelieving Spouse/Bloom Where Planted. Read all Bible notes in this section first. Paul speaks to the married regarding Jesus' teaching in Mt. 5:32, 19:3-9, Mk 10:2-12, and Luke 16:18. What did Jesus (and Paul) say (10-11)? How do you or I make sense of this today? How is a believer/unbeliever marriage to be approached (12-16)? Share your thoughts with the Lord or others. In the "living in the state you were called" section (17-24), what is the main teaching? What verse do you like best in this section? **Personal Application:** Write down one verse from 17-24 and write a brief reflection about it.

7. Saturday, March 18; 1 Cor. 7: 25-40; Choosing Singleness. Read all Bible notes on this section. What is Paul's overall opinion regarding marriage versus singleness? In his "plug" for singleness, what is a great reason to be single (28)? Summarize verses 29-31 in your own words. What is a huge benefit of singleness found in 32-35? Summarize 36-38 in your own words. Summarize 39-40 in your own words. **Personal Application:** Shall you or I approach marriage or singleness any differently from this week's teaching? How may we better encourage those who are single?

Cindy Oury. March 10, 2017.