

November 27 Answers

- 1) Paul now rebuked the Corinthians for several other sins. First, Paul addressed the case of **incest**. This shocking incident teaches us: (1) The boundaries for sex given in **Leviticus** are still relevant today (cf. Lev 18:8); (2) Jesus' statement, "Judge not," has been wrongly interpreted as a command to **ignore** sin in the lives of Christians; (3) Sin is insidious and **corrupting**. If we don't remove it quickly from our lives and from the church, it will "**leaven** the whole lump" (1 Cor 5:6). (4) Church **discipline** is just as needed and important today as it was in Paul's day, for it shows the seriousness of sin and the consequences of rejecting God's Word (1 Cor 5:2). Next, Paul addressed the issue of civil disputes. Paul rebuked the Corinthians sharply for such behavior, and his comments teach us several important lessons: (1) This present life is preparing us for the future, for our destiny to is **rule** and reign with Christ. If we are to judge **angels**, we should certainly be wise enough to judge disputes between brothers! (1 Cor 6:2, 5); (2) It is better to be defrauded—to be actually **cheated** by a fellow-believer—than to damage the witness of the gospel (1 Cor 6:7). (3) The freedom we have in Christ is not a license to commit **sin**. Next, Paul addressed the issue of sexual immorality. Paul teaches us: (1) Our bodies are **temples** of the Holy Spirit. We should never use them to do anything that is unholy or **immoral**; (2) Our bodies belong to **God**. We should care for them in such a way that they bring **glory** to God; (3) Something can be "lawful" and yet not be **beneficial**. We must evaluate whether a given activity is helping us to be a better disciple of Jesus; (4) Something can be "lawful" and yet exert a **controlling** influence over us. If a given activity starts to dominate our life or interfere with our priorities, we shouldn't do it.