



Part 4: Courting Trouble

INTRODUCTION – Heart Transplants vs. Fruit Stapling

Luke 6:43-45

Deuteronomy 10:16 vs. Deuteronomy 30:6

DINE IN – Shame on the Church

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Paul's other VICE lists... **Romans 1:29-32; 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 12:20-21; Galatians 5:19-21** ... a fence around grace?

OBSERVATION #1: BEHAVING LIKE FAMILY

Paul rebukes three parties: 1) The suing brother. 2) The defrauding brother. 3) The entire church. (The word "brother" is used repeatedly.)

Genesis 13:8; Psalm 133:1

OBSERVATION #2: TO SHAME OR NOT TO SHAME

Although Christians should not try to heap shame on one another (**4:14**), if someone is behaving shamefully, it is right to point it out. Paul only connects the concept of shame with outsiders (e.g., **15:34**), never within the church (**4:14**).

OBSERVATION #3: JESUS AS COMPOSER, PAUL AS CONDUCTOR

Paul is obviously trying to help the church practically apply the teachings of Jesus. Those who claim the Apostle Paul offered a different brand of Christianity than Jesus and his Apostles diminish the facts that: 1) Paul and his message was approved by the Jerusalem council (as recorded by Luke); b) Peter even refers to Paul's writings as "Scripture" (2 Peter 3:15-16); and c) the close correspondence between Paul's and Jesus' teaching.

Matthew 5:38-48; Luke 6:27-36

OBSERVATION #4: GAY SEX

Recent attempts to argue that the Bible only condemns abusive forms of same-gender sex remain interesting, but unconvincing. The two words Paul uses in this vice list literally mean "soft ones" and "men penetrators" and refer to the receiving and giving partners of male homosexual intercourse. These terms address the activity and do not refer to the sexual orientation of the individuals or the quality of the relationship.

- *Malakoi* = Lit., "the soft ones" (likely men who play the feminine role in sexual relationships, being penetrated by their partner)
- *Arsenokoitai* = Lit., male + intercourse (refers to men who play the male role in sexual relationships, penetrating their partner)

OBSERVATION #5: THE TRINITY

Paul expresses his Trinitarian theology (also see **2 Corinthians 13:14**).

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

The only thing about your past that matters in the present is what Jesus has done for you. Therefore, let us live like who we are, not who we were.

CONCLUSION – Letting Go of Our "Rights"

Why not let yourselves be wronged?
Why not let yourselves be cheated?
~ The Apostle Paul

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HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Talk about the implications of this quote by N.T. Wright: "*The point is that when you become a member of the Christian family, you receive a new identity, and are launched on to a new lifestyle. Paul knows, of course, that this new identity and lifestyle doesn't work out automatically. That's why he's writing this letter!*"

Look to the Book...

2. Read **1 Corinthians 6:1-11**, in a couple of different translations if possible. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) Paul is obviously shocked by the Corinthians taking each other to court. Why is that so unexpected for CHRIST-followers? c) Talk about which position most clearly describes your stance on the issue of Christians and same-sex relationships: i. The Bible teaches against same-gender sex and that should equally apply to our lives today. ii. Rightly understood, the Bible doesn't actually teach against same-gender sex, so homosexual Christians today should be free to express their sexuality according to the same expectations as heterosexual Christians. iii. The Bible may teach against same-gender sex, but the writers of Scripture did not envision a time when same-gender marriage would be a possibility and we should adjust our ethics accordingly. iv. Other. d) Read through Paul's list of 10 unacceptable behaviours for Christ-followers. Which vice are you most likely to fall into? How can the truth of **10:13** help you fight your temptations?

So What?...

3. What form of "idolatry" is most tempting to you? a) Aphrodite/Venus (Goddess of love and sex); b) Dionysus/Bacchus (God of wine and partying); c) Ares/Mars (God of war and aggression); d) Nike/Victoria (Goddess of victory); e) Other?
4. What is one thing you can do this week, even right now, to help you avoid idolatry in your life? What is one thing your Home Church can do for you?

The Meeting House | Sunday, March 13 / 20, 2011 | Bruxy Cavey

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