



Part 4: Courting Trouble

Paul has been telling the Corinthians that they must BECOME, through moral reflection and discipline in the present time, the people they actually ARE. That's what a good deal of this letter is about.

-- N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone*

Once again in this passage we see that who Christians are, or rather will be in the future, should determine how we behave in the present.

-- D.A. Carson, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

Disputes among believers are not surprising; what makes us different is the way we respond to these disputes. The way conflicts are resolved says a great deal about the maturity of the believers involved, about the health of a community of believers, about its understanding of itself and its obligations to others.

-- J. Paul Sampley, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

What matters in the eyes of the world is that a public dispute between Christians is a sign that Christians are really no different from everybody else. And 1 Corinthians is all about the fact that Christians ARE different from everybody else – and if they're not, they might as well not bother calling themselves Christians in the first place.

-- N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone*

Paul believes that God can give Christians enough power to resist sinful desires, even if they continue to have them. Paul believes that Christ frees believers from sin addiction so that they have a choice about their actions.

-- Ben Witherington III, *Conflict & Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*

For Paul there is to be the closest possible relationship between the experience of grace and one's behaviour that evidences that experience of grace.

-- Gordon D. Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*

The creator God has unveiled his genuine model for humanity in Jesus, and there are certain ways of behaving which just won't fit. If you want to be a truly, fully human being, those ways of behaving have to be left behind.

-- N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone*

Follow me.

-- Jesus