

# Remember who you are.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-6:11

Title	Passage	Sermon	Study
<b>1. Remember who you are</b>	Study 1: 1 Cor 1:1-17	<b>July 17</b>	<b>July 18-22</b>
<b>2. The gospel looks foolish</b>	Study 2: 1 Cor 1:17-2:5	<b>July 24</b>	<b>July 25-29</b>
<b>3. The Spirit helps us to understand</b>	Study 3: 1 Cor 2:6-16	<b>July 31</b>	<b>Aug 1-5</b>
<b>4. Leader = Servant</b>	Study 4: 1 Cor 3:1-23	<b>Aug 7</b>	<b>Aug 8-12</b>
<b>5. Don't think too much of yourself</b>	Study 5: 1 Cor 4:1-21	<b>Aug 14</b>	<b>Aug 15-19</b>
<b>6. And again remember who you are</b>	Study 6: 1 Cor 5:1-6:11	<b>Aug 21</b>	<b>Aug 22-26</b>

# Some helpful background to 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 helps us to know who this letter is from and who it is to. *Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,* <sup>2</sup> *To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:*

Paul and Sosthenes (most likely Paul's scribe and possibly the guys mentioned in Acts 18:17) are writing to the church of God in Corinth (most likely a group of house churches). He is writing to remind them of who they are in Christ. They are sanctified, they are called to be holy, they are like the rest of God's people who call on the name of Jesus. Because of Jesus they are acceptable to God and able to enter into and enjoy his presence. They have been set a part for a special purpose for God

Paul is writing to remind these believers of who they are in Christ. Because the way they are living doesn't line up with who they are. Paul first visited Corinth around 50 AD and he spent a year and a half there, establishing the church, which consisted mostly of gentiles. Read Acts 18:1-18 to get the background.

*After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.* <sup>2</sup> *There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,* <sup>3</sup> *and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.* <sup>4</sup> *Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.* <sup>5</sup> *When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.* <sup>6</sup> *But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."* <sup>7</sup> *Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God.* <sup>8</sup> *Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.* <sup>9</sup> *One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."* <sup>10</sup> *For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."* <sup>11</sup> *So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.* <sup>12</sup> *While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment.* <sup>13</sup> *"This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."* <sup>14</sup> *Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you."* <sup>15</sup> *But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law--settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things."* <sup>16</sup> *So he drove them off.* <sup>17</sup> *Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.* <sup>18</sup> *Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken.*

Paul most likely wrote 1 Corinthians sometime between 52-55 AD. But confusingly, 1 Corinthians is not Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 5:9-10 tells us about another earlier letter.

*<sup>9</sup> I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- <sup>10</sup> not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.*

We don't have the earlier letter. So interestingly the Bible or the Canon cannot get smaller than 66 books, we believe that all of the Bible is God's word. But it could get bigger if we found this letter and other missing letters. Anyway back to 1 Corinthians.

It appears that after Paul wrote the earlier letter that we don't have, he has received some reports of dodgy behavior in the Corinthians Church and a letter asking a number of questions. That is why Paul writes what we call 1 Corinthians. In this series we are only going to cover 1:1-6:11. In this section it seems that Paul is dealing with reports about the church in Corinth.

*<sup>11</sup> My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.*

*<sup>5</sup> It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife.*

After this section Paul seems to be answering the questions outlined in the letter written to him.

*<sup>7</sup> Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."<sup>2</sup> But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.*

He goes on throughout the rest of the letter to answer the Corinthians' questions. But what is 1 Corinthians 1:1-6:11 all about? I think it's about the Corinthians and us remembering who we are. Specifically who we are in Christ. The section we are looking at starts with Paul reminding the Corinthians that they are sanctified in Christ and finishes with Paul again reminding them of that truth. They have been washed clean by Jesus. They have been set apart for a special purpose. They are acceptable to God and can enjoy a deep personal relationship with him. But the problem is, they are not living as special or set apart. They are being just like the world around them and in some cases worse.

*They are meant to point the world to Jesus. But instead they are fighting among themselves and approving of people who are living pretty rank lives. As we dig into 1 Corinthians 1:1-6:11 the question for us to wrestle with is, are we any different?*

*Do we get caught up in what Christian leader we follow—rather than delighting in Christ?*

*Do we think we have it all together?*

*Are we living lives worse than the world?*

*Do we remember who we are in Christ?*

***Please be praying that God's Spirit works in you as you wrestle with the Scriptures.***

# 1

## Remember who you are - 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

**Kick off:** Share a time when you forgot who you are, or at least part of who you are. Example—every time I go on holidays, I think I forget how great it is to be a follower of Jesus.

### Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-17.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,<sup>2</sup> To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.<sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way--with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge--<sup>6</sup> God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.<sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.<sup>8</sup> He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,<sup>11</sup> in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.<sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.<sup>13</sup> What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."<sup>14</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?<sup>15</sup> I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,<sup>16</sup> so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.)<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

### Reflection - take 3 mins by yourself to answer the following two questions.

1. What stood out to you from the passage?
2. What questions do you have from the passage?

**Share one of your answers with the group.**

## **Investigate**

3. Who is writing this letter and what do we find out about him in verse 1? Remember Sosthenes is most likely Paul's scribe.

4. Who is Paul writing to? And what do you think it means to be sanctified?

5. Why do you think Paul also mentions everyone who calls on the name of the Lord in verse 2?

6. In verses 4-9 Paul lists all that God has given and will do for the Corinthians, why do you think he does this?

7. From verses 11-12, Paul seems to have heard about a problem in the Corinthian Church, what is the problem? Why do you think they are doing this? See Acts 18:24-19:1.

8. In verses 13 Paul gives three reasons why, saying you follow certain leaders is wrong. What are they?

9. What did Christ send Paul to do? And how does Paul do that? See v17.

## **Think and Apply**

10. In verses 2-9, Paul seems to be reminding the Corinthians of all they have in Christ. We've only touched on it briefly for now, but it seems like the Corinthians have forgotten who they are. How do you forget who you are in Christ?

11. How are you like Corinthians, taking delight in the Christian leader that you follow rather than following Christ?

12. How can we remind each other of who we are?

## **Pray**

Pray that Willows wouldn't get caught up on our leaders but would get caught up in Christ.

Pray that we would be united and there wouldn't be any divisions.

# 2

## The gospel looks foolish - 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5

**Kickoff:** How do you think the world views Christianity?

<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."<sup>1</sup> <sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."<sup>1</sup> **2:1** And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. <sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

**Reflection - take 3 mins by yourself to answer the following two questions.**

1. What stood out to you from the passage?
2. What questions do you have from the passage?

**Share one of your answers with the group.**

## **Investigate**

3. In verse 17 Paul says that he just preached the gospel. How is the gospel viewed differently by different people? See v18.
4. Verse 19 is a quote from Isaiah 29:14 about judgment on human wisdom. What do you think Paul is saying in verses 19-21?
5. Why do you think Paul lists what Jews and Greeks look for in verse 22?
6. What is Paul's practice and why? See v23-25.
7. How does Paul describe the Corinthians in verse 26?
8. From verses 27-31 why does God chose the lowly and humble?
9. How does Paul describe his ministry in verses 2-3 of chapter 2?
10. Why did Paul operate like this? See v4-5.

## **Think and apply**

11. If you are a leader, are you on about making yourself look great or Jesus look great? If we're honest, it's always probably a mix. Explain your answer.
12. What do you look for in a Christian leader, eloquence and wisdom or a love for the gospel?
13. Why should Jesus be the thing that we are on about?

## **Pray**

Pray for the leaders at Willows.

Pray that we would love and care for our leaders but that we would make much of Jesus.

# 3

## The Spirit helps us to understand - 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

**Kickoff:** What do you think is the role of the Spirit?

<sup>6</sup> We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup> No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"<sup>1</sup>-- the things God has prepared for those who love him-- <sup>10</sup> these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. <sup>14</sup> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. <sup>15</sup> The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, <sup>16</sup> for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"<sup>1</sup> But we have the mind of Christ.

**Reflection - take 3 mins by yourself to answer the following two questions.**

1. What stood out to you from the passage?
2. What questions do you have from the passage?

**Share one of your answers with the group.**

## **Investigate**

3. Paul has been saying that the message of the cross is foolishness to the world. What is he now saying in verse 6?
  
4. What is the wisdom that Paul and others are declaring? See V7-9 - *Note verse 9 is a quote from Isaiah 64:4 that proves that neither human perception nor human reason can understand the wisdom of God that is revealed in Jesus' death on the cross.*
  
5. How do Paul and others know what God's wisdom is? See v10.
  
6. What does the Spirit know? See v11.
  
7. How do Paul and others know how to speak God's words? See v12 and13.
  
8. What allows someone to accept God's wisdom? See v14.
  
9. What do you think Paul is saying in verses 15-16?

## **Think and Apply**

10. Do you see the gospel as beautiful wisdom from God? What does your answer tell you about the Spirit's work in your life?
  
11. Do you realise how amazing it is that God has given us his Spirit so that we can understand the gospel, a message that is utter foolishness to the world? Explain your answer.

## **Pray**

Praise God for giving us his Spirit.

Pray that through the Spirit God would remind us of how amazing the gospel is.

# 4

## Leader=servant - 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

**Kick off:** What are Christian leaders meant to be like?

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly--mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup> You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? <sup>4</sup> For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? <sup>5</sup> What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup> I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup> By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved--even though only as one escaping through the flames. <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. <sup>18</sup> Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; <sup>20</sup> and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." <sup>21</sup> So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, <sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas<sup>1</sup> or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all are yours, <sup>23</sup> and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

**Reflection - take 3 mins by yourself to answer the following two questions.**

1. What stood out to you from the passage?
2. What questions do you have from the passage?

**Share one of your answers with the group.**

## **Investigate**

3. What is Paul's complaint against the Corinthians in verses 1-4?
4. From verses 5-6 why is Paul saying that it's silly to make much of Christian leaders?
5. What is the point that Paul is making in verses 6-9?
6. What is the foundation that Paul laid? See v10-11.
7. What is the warning for leaders in verses 12-15?
8. What do you think verse 15 means?
9. From verses 21-23 why shouldn't the Corinthians boast in their leaders?

## **Think and Apply**

9. Do you think we struggle with divisions at Willows? Different people following different leaders. Explain your answer.
10. If you are a leader what warning does this passage have for us?
11. Do you realise all that you have in Christ? Explain your answer.

## **Pray**

Pray that our leaders would build on the foundation of Christ well.

Pray that we would realise all that we have in Christ and therefore not get caught up in things that we shouldn't.

# 5

## Don't think too much of yourself—1 Corinthians 4:1-21

**Kickoff:** When do you think you know better than your leaders?

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. <sup>2</sup> Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. <sup>3</sup> I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup> My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup> Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. <sup>6</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. <sup>7</sup> For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? <sup>8</sup> Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign--and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! <sup>9</sup> For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. <sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! <sup>11</sup> To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. <sup>12</sup> We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup> when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world--right up to this moment. <sup>14</sup> I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. <sup>15</sup> Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> Therefore I urge you to imitate me. <sup>17</sup> For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. <sup>18</sup> Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. <sup>19</sup> But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. <sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. <sup>21</sup> What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?

**Reflection - take 3 mins by yourself to answer the following two questions.**

1. What stood out to you from the passage?
2. What questions do you have from the passage?

**Share one of your answers with the group.**

## Investigate

3. From verse 1 how should the Corinthians regard Paul and the other leaders?
4. The Corinthians are potentially judging Paul for not being as eloquent with his words as Apollos. Who is Paul leaving his judgment to in verses 2-5?
5. What do you think verse 6 is saying?
6. In verses 7-8 what is the problem that Paul is pointing out in the Corinthians?
7. It seems that some of the elite in the Corinthian Church think they know better than Paul and others. Paul mocks the Corinthians and then reminds them of what true leadership looks like. How does Paul describe being a leader is like in verses 9-14?
8. What does Paul remind the Corinthians of in verses 15-16?
9. Why is Paul sending Timothy to the Corinthians? See v17.
10. What is the problem that Paul is addressing in verses 18-21?

## Think and apply

11. When we serve in Christian leadership, whose opinion really matters? Why?
12. When you think you know better than your Christian leaders, how do you express this? *Note: You might know better than your leaders—we are not apostles but there are definitely helpful and unhelpful ways to express these thoughts.*
13. If you want to be a leader in God's people. It means you are a servant to God's people. It will be hard, why would anyone want to be a leader in God's people?

## Pray

Pray that we would respect our leaders and raise concerns lovingly.

Pray that our leaders would serve because of the way that Jesus served us.

# 6

## And again remember who you are - 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11

**Kickoff:** If someone who says they are a Christian but is clearly not living like that, what should you do?

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? <sup>3</sup> For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. <sup>4</sup> So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, <sup>5</sup> hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, <sup>1,2</sup> so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? <sup>7</sup> Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. <sup>9</sup> I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- <sup>10</sup> not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. <sup>11</sup> But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister <sup>1</sup> but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. <sup>12</sup> What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? <sup>13</sup> God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you."<sup>1</sup>

**6:**<sup>1</sup> If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? <sup>2</sup> Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! <sup>4</sup> Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? <sup>5</sup> I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? <sup>6</sup> But instead, one brother takes another to court--and this in front of unbelievers! <sup>7</sup> The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? <sup>8</sup> Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. <sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**Reflection - take 3 mins by yourself to answer the following two questions.**

1. What stood out to you from the passage?
2. What questions do you have from the passage?

**Share one your answers with your group.**

**Investigate**

3. In verses 1-2 what is the problem that Paul is now addressing?
4. In verses 4-5 what is Paul telling the Corinthians to do? And what do you think he means by this?
5. What is Paul saying in verses 6-8?
6. In verses 9-13 Paul is talking about judging other Christians. He says we need to point out others sin. When and how would you do this?
7. What is the problem that Paul is addressing in verses 1-8 of chapter 6?
8. Paul lists a number of reasons why this is really bad. What are they?
9. What is Paul's point in verse 9?
10. What does Paul remind the Corinthians of in 6:10-11?

**Think and Apply**

11. Does this passage mean that all matters should be handled by the church and not taken to the police? Explain your answer.
12. Is there someone that you need to have a chat with about how they are living? Don't give away details in your answer. Speak generally.
13. What is one main application you are taking away from 1 Corinthians 1:1-6:11?

**Pray**