

Losing When You Win

I Corinthians 6:1-8

In this passage Paul identifies two areas of spiritual blindness

The Greek word “know” (vss. 2, 3, 9) primarily means “see” or “perceive”

Verse 11 is the corrective lens for both issues

What?

Christ-like spiritual sight corrects the blindness of human right

Sometimes you lose even when you win—

Even if they won their cases in court, they had still lost—they had lost their fellowship with a brother and their testimony in the world

If they were going to judge the world, and the fallen angels, they should have the same wisdom in these matters

They were willing to sacrifice their relationships, and their testimony, in order to satisfy pride

Love in the Body involves being willing to be wronged

They needed to be willing to be treated unjustly, to even suffer the loss of property

They needed to open their eyes to how destructive insisting on their rights really was

The Jesus connection—

They needed to “see” the life and teachings of Jesus (7)

1 Peter 2:23, ESV—When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly

Jesus did not retaliate against those who took His dignity and even His life, He sacrificed His living and His life to give life

to others, He showed mercy to the weak and vulnerable, and He taught His followers to do the same

So What?

It’s important for us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

We also need to be searching the Scriptures for answers, not social media

Believers are even breaking fellowship with other believers over so-called rights related to the pandemic

The other issue is the message that civil disobedience sends to our community—“We don’t care about our community or the vulnerable”

We can guard against this kind of spiritual shortsightedness with the corrective lens Paul applies in verse 11

Washed—this washing makes us holy so that we become suitable dwelling places for the Holy Spirit

Sanctified—this sets us apart from the world, consecrates us to holy lives in fellowship with God

Justified—Christ’s righteousness was accredited to us

Do you see what all this means? Christ-likeness

It means becoming what we are in Christ

The final say—

Hebrews 12:3, ESV—Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted

Now What?

Stop following online sources that encourage the maintaining of so-called rights

Instead, follow the Scriptures that describe Jesus’ selfless laying down of His living and His life