

INTRODUCTION – 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER SIX

This chapter is apportioned with two (2) sections in the bible that reveal Paul's messages to the Corinthians for our study, understanding, obedience, blessings and edification.

1. Do Not Sue The Brethren: **1 Corinthians 6:1 – 11**
2. Glorify God in the Body and Spirit: **1 Corinthians 6:12 – 20**

Clearly it portrays Paul as the spiritual father to the Church of Corinth with interest and passion to the faith of the Corinthian Believers, Christian teachings and doctrines, spiritual growth and maturity.

The sixth chapter of Paul's first epistle was to introduce and enforce strong and strict judiciary policy in settling personal and Church disputes at the Church level and not before pagan courts. One of his maxims was that alternative dispute resolutions at the Church level was the best judicial approach to settle disputes because of sense of Christian faith, one faith and confession and purpose to win souls for Christ. Hence this judicial policy was preferred to taking Church disputes before pagan courts for adjudication with their own beliefs, terms and decisions.

Besides, Paul's teaching to the Corinthians Believers revealed that God has given the Church the power to judge unbelieving sinners; even angels in accordance with the gospel of Jesus Christ. But we are not to judge one another as long as we believe and share the same Christian faith and are led by the Holy Spirit.

It means to agree with Paul that the Church is filled with wise people who have the wisdom of God in Christ and are led by the Holy Spirit to make righteous decisions with eternal benefits beyond earthly benefits. In other words, the decisions of the Church is to help you live righteously before God and make it to heaven. On the contrary, it is not all decisions at the state courts or pagan courts that make establishes the faith and unity of the Church such as adjudication cases that promote sexual immoralities like same sex marriages and marriage ceremonies.

The second section focused on glorifying God in body and spirit through holy living ad not corruption with a prostitute. For clean water will always be polluted with dirty water as long as there is a contact. He taught and enlightened further that our bodies are members of Christ and must not be in union with prostitutes. Sexual sins corrupt our most holy faith and must be eschewed because our bodies are temple of the Holy Spirit. For the former will be judged by God whilst the latter honours and glorify God as Believing Christians.

To enable readers and the Churches and Body of Christ as a whole understand the sixth chapter of Paul's epistle, I have done my best with the grace of God upon my life

and ministry to explain verse by verse or combination of verses in bringing out the quality of Paul's messages to the Corinthians.

Like a weaned child just weaned from milk and drawn from the breasts, the word of God is taught precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little **(Isaiah 28:9 & 10)**. Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, He shall guide us unto all truths **(John 16:13)**.

Connect to other writings of the Church and bible commentaries as the Holy Spirit enlightens your understanding because grace and truth emanated from our Lord Jesus Christ **(John 1:17)**. For this study, additional biblical information from the New King James Bible Commentary added fresh revelations to enhance understanding.

Study and know its relevance to your life first as a Christian before you apply it to other Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders. I trust God that you will be equipped with His knowledge and continuous belief in Christ's salvation work on the cross as tied to obedience, knowledge, spiritual wisdom, humility, spiritual growth and maturity. You are not alone because the Holy Spirit is Your Helper.

The focus here is your obedience to gain insight and understanding of Paul's messages unto spiritual growth and maturity in the Church. It is my prayer and hope that you shall be an instrument in the Lord's service to bring sound Christian teachings and practices to your local Church and Body of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen. Hallelujah!

SETTLE CHURCH DISPUTES WITH MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS; NOT AT PAGAN LAW COURTS

INSPIRATION

The wisdom of God is superior and far more excellent than that of man. So also is His word in our lives, ministries and the Church. The bible says commands us to buy the truth, wisdom, understanding and instruction, and not sell them. For they will keep, protect, preserve, promote, exalt, honour and grace, and put on your head a crown of glory (**Proverbs 4:5 – 9, 23:23**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:1 – 4 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

Paul's message was to reinforce his position on settling Church disputes using the right caliber of people within a set holy sanctuary and environment. For he believed that the Church is the right place for adjudication of Church disputes because it contains people who believe and speak the same things in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Since the saints would judge the world and angels, it was righteous and proper to show maturity in settling own disputes and not leave it in the hands of unbelieving sinners. Thus he provoked the consciences and faith of the Corinthians Believers to truth and revelation about God's standard of judgment in Christ by the Holy Spirit and its contrast with pagan laws and traditions.

Apostle Paul in chapter five (5) had written a strong letter to the Corinthian church to banish sexually immoral members and not to even associate themselves or eat with them. This decision was to be executed within the confines of the church and not outside the church. This strong decision was to discourage sin and promote Christ's righteousness just like similar decisions made by the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, other prophets and righteous kings.

However, the repercussions revealed aggrieved Church members who challenged such decisions among other disputable matters at the law courts of the state.

The New King James Bible Commentary in **verses 1 – 11** shows that Paul instructs the Corinthians to stop taking their personal disputes into the pagan courts. The Corinthians had been carrying their conflicts into the Roman courts and thus were making a mockery of Christianity by feuding in public. Their inability to settle personal disputes illustrated the sharp divisions in the Church (**1 Corinthians 1:10 – 17**).

The New King James Bible Commentary states that Believers will participate in judging fallen angels. Paul suggested that if the Corinthians were going to be judging with Christ in his future kingdom (**Matthew 19:28**), then surely they had the means to settle their own personal differences.

The New King James Bible Commentary explains that those who are least esteemed refers to Judges in pagan courts. The Corinthians, though they had the ability to judge the issues themselves, took their disputes to pagan courts for the Judges to decide.

A// APOSTLE PAUL'S CONCERN

1. Matters of the church were handled by unrighteous people in pagan courts instead of righteous people in the Church.
2. The judicial system of the pagan courts differs from that of the Church in terms of decisions based on interpretations of state laws and the bible respectively.
3. The devil can easily manipulate the pagan courts and their unbelieving Judges than the Church and her believing Judges.
4. Even unrighteous people in the Church are easy agents of the devil to encourage and promote worldly and demonic teachings and practices. How much more unbelieving Judges in pagan courts?
5. Appointment of least esteemed people (pagan unbelieving Judges) as Judges over Church matters.
6. The spirit of the devil was taking the place of the Holy Spirit to direct, counsel and rebuke because of worldly institutions and personalities involved.

Earlier, Paul's message to the Corinthians enlightened them that the Church of Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders have received the Spirit of God and not of the world to know the things that God has freely given to us (**1 Corinthians 2:12**). Also his teachings was not in human wisdom but what the Holy Spirit taught through them in their spirituality as Believers and not as worldly in unbelief (**1 Corinthians 2:13**). Furthermore, Paul had taught them that the natural mind does not receive the things of Spirit because they are foolishness to him. Besides, the natural mind cannot know the things of God because they are spiritually discerned (**1 Corinthians 2:15**). If Paul had stated that the spiritual man judges all things but he himself is not judged by no man (unspiritual), then it was unrighteous to send Church disputes to pagan courts for adjudication. Though state and pagan courts in Corinth had codified laws that thrived on the beliefs, culture and moral fiber of the people, it was usually inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God for the Church.

Apostle Paul's desire to hear and see the restoration of the backsliding Church was being blocked by the pagan courts. As a spiritual person, he discerned that the devil was at work against the Church. Besides, Church members hid under state and community laws to perpetuate sin and evil instead of repenting and living the life of righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, God's word and the Holy Spirit.

B// ENFORCING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

1. The Church would judge the world **(Psalms 94:20 & Matthew 19:28 & 24:30 & 31)**.
2. The Church would judge angels **(Revelations 20:19 & 20 and Revelations 20:10)**.
3. The Church would judge things pertaining to this life **(Exodus 18:13 – 26)**.

The spiritual authority of the Church is to rule with Jesus Christ and judge the world, fallen angels and things in this life for the establishment of God's righteousness in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. If the Church is to settle its own matters and not go the law courts, then certain immoral and unchristian impositions backed by state laws must be rejected. For instance, the Church cannot see eye to eye with state laws that allow same sexual relationships and marriages impose on her in terms of usage of facilities, marriage blessings and weddings, and worldly programs.

As a result, pertinent Church issues and disputes should be settled with judicial committees working closely with the Ministers and Church leaders plus other Church stakeholders. Besides, there must be fervent prayers, counsels, meetings based on the parties, right to fair hearing, and application of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and fruit of the Spirit.

This was what the first Church in Jerusalem did to resolve disputable matters with regard to the wrong doctrine of circumcision of the flesh by the Law of Moses to be saved eternally **(Acts 15:1 – 5, 6 – 21, 22 – 29)**. They did not present their case before a human court and civil Judges but called for a meeting of the Apostles and elders **(Acts 15:6)**. They prayerfully made a righteous decision with the contributions of Apostles Peter **(Acts 15:7 – 11)**, Barnabas and Paul **(Acts 15:12)** and James **(Acts 15:13 – 21)**. Eventually the Jerusalem Church delegated Judas called Barsabas and Silas to accompany Paul and Barnabas with the letter of decision to the Antioch Church and resolved the controversial circumcision matter peacefully. Yes the matter was put to rest peacefully **(Acts 15:22 – 29)**.

Moses under the Old Covenant taught us to trust in God's appointed Judges and make righteous decisions for the people. It means to embrace righteous counsels that will make Church management easy and results oriented eternally **(Exodus 18:13 – 27)**.

God is bigger than our challenges and problems and therefore His Holy Spirit is ever willing to use righteous believers in the Church to settle all disagreements and disputes. For He judges without partiality (**Deuteronomy 10:17**). It's about reigning with Christ in the Church. This is better with achievable results and more rewarding than using less esteemed people who are guided by the laws of the land without reference to the bible. Besides some of the civil Judges have been found to be sinners, immoral, corrupt and wicked and can easily be bribed and manipulated with money and worldly enticements (**Exodus 23:8, Deuteronomy 16:19, 27:25, 1 Samuel 12:3**). For Paul's nature was not to handle the word of God deceitfully (**2 Corinthians 4:2**).

APOSTLE PAUL PROVOKED THE CONSCIENCE AND FAITH OF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS TO TRUTH AND REVELATION ABOUT GOD'S STANDARD OF JUDGMENT IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ITS CONTRAST WITH PAGAN LAWS AND TRADITIONS. SINCE THE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS SHALL JUDGE UNBELIEVERS AND EVEN ANGELS, IT IS RIGHTEOUS AND PROPER FOR THE CHURCH TO CONSTITUTE A TEAM OF PEOPLE QUALIFIED TO JUDGE ONE ANOTHER AND SETTLE DISPUTES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND NOT PAGAN LAWS.

PRAYER

Guide us O LORD with Your superior wisdom and Holy Spirit to settle all Church disputes within the confines of the Church using Ministers and Church leaders as Believing Christians.

Help us to uphold the high integrity of the Christian faith by not degrading Your name, word, wisdom and interests with pagan laws and judgments in state courts.

If we can pray and depend on You to receive answers and solutions, then we can judge our own disputes peacefully and joyfully with eternal results by the help of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen.

SETTLE CHURCH MATTERS AND DISPUTES BY THE STANDARD OF GOD'S WORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH (SAINTS). FOR WE REIGN WITH CHRIST PEACEFULLY AND JOYFULLY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CHURCH AND NOT AT STATE COURTS WITH STATE LAWS AND STATE JUDGES. IF THE FORMER IS IN THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD AND EXCELLENT, THEN THE LATTER CAN BE IN THE PERMISSIVE WILL OF GOD BUT DEGRADING TO HIM AND THE CHURCH. NANA KWAKU DUODU

MARRIAGE DIVORCE RATE IN THE CHURCH IS INCREASING BECAUSE OF USING STATE LAWS TO REPLACE DECISIONS OF MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERS. WE NEED TO REVISIT THE DAYS OF PETER AND PAUL AND THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL TO RESOLVE DISPUTES THAT AFFECT MEMBERS. NANA KWAKU DUODU

GATHER THE WISE AND DISCERNING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH TO ADJUDICATE DISPUTES AND CONFLICT SITUATIONS

INSPIRATION

The ability to put together a formidable team is one of the tenets of a good leader. In other words, every Church policy must have Adjudication committees to work with other Church departments and make righteous decisions based on God's word in Christ by the Holy Spirit. The administration and management of every Church becomes a righteous necessity with judicial teams in place if there should peace and order and reconciliation after every Church dispute. For the Church abounds with many gifts of the Holy Spirit such as knowledge, wisdom, faith, administration **(1 Corinthians 12:28 – 31)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:5 – 7 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

In these verses, Apostle Paul reiterates his strong rebuke of the Corinthian Church for allowing pagan courts and systems to corrupt the purity of the Church and God's standard of adjudicating problematic issues among His people.

THE CHURCH CANNOT ALLOW PAGAN PRACTICES TO CORRUPT HER PURITY ON THE BASIS OF STATE LAWS. GOOD AND ANOINTED CHURCH LEADERSHIP IS A NECESSITY TO ENFORCE IT.

He described it as shameful because Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and the light to the world, and not the world as light to the Church. It revealed the corruption of the Church to the extent that the term brethren associated with love, goodness, spiritual and physical support, protection and preservation and unity was no longer working. This explains why a single person was not identified to be able to judge by the Holy Spirit and God's word. It revealed also that the Church leadership was weak and adamant to correctional discipline.

THE UNITY OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND THE BRETHERN TO LIVE PEACEABLY AND SETTLE DISPUTABLE ISSUES IS GRACE AT WORK BUT DIVISIONS REVEAL WORLDLINESS AND SHAMEFUL ACTS AND DECISIONS.

To go to the law courts against your fellow brethren fits into the description of total failure in the application of God's knowledge and wisdom to settle disputable Church matters. For Apostle Paul, the convictions of the Holy Spirit should necessitate remorse and repentance, and not arrogance. They could not even humble themselves to accept

their faults as Christians filled with the Holy Spirit and even make themselves cheated like Jacob before Laban but rather took pride to involve worldly ways for personal and selfish interests and motives. This worldly trend in the Church needs to be broken because God wants us to trust Him and make righteous decisions. Truly, when the guilty acknowledges and confesses his or her sins, it will be easy for righteous decisions to be made by the Adjudication Committee.

Believing Christians take also inspiration from the wisdom and judicial ruling of King Solomon when two prostitutes presented a complex case of child ownership by the true mother. The bible says that the wisdom and ruling of Solomon made him very popular in the whole of Israel and surrounding and far nations **(1 Kings 3:16 – 28)**.

Indeed Solomon did not have the kind of wisdom from God until He gave it to him upon request **(1 King 3:5 – 15)**. It means to say that the Church under the dispensation of the New Covenant in Christ by the Holy Spirit have been prepared by God to always have qualified people and make righteous decisions to settle all Church disputes. Let us God ask for wisdom to make right decisions that are in conformity with His word and perfect will in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Yes decisions that would make us committed and faithful and protect and preserve us for eternity.

It means to say that Church disputes that are before state courts seem to be a deviation from the position of the early Church when Peter and Paul played key and significant roles. Truly we have become a mockery to the world because certain Church disputes could not be adjudicated by Believing Christians, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders. This saying is true: **Do not wash your dirty linen in public.**

It is also important to note that the position of the early Church comes close to the modern court system of Alternative Dispute Resolution **(ADR)**. Having one mind and voice and purpose in Christ, the Church must be unified and determined to settle all conflicts and controversial and disputable matters within its own walls. Bringing the parties together with the right to fair hearing and trial based on the word of God, prayers and leading of the Holy Spirit, righteous decisions would be made by the Church and Christian leaderships to affirm our Christian faith and promote the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF PAUL, IT IS BETTER TO BE SUFFER IN THE HANDS OF A DISHONEST PERSON THAN TO BE MOCKED AND HUMILIATED BEFORE UNBELIEVING JUDGES IN PAGAN COURTS. CLEARLY THIS REINFORCED HIS POSITION OF SETTLING PERSONAL AND CHURCH DISPUTES AT THE CHURCH LEVEL ONLY AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS.

PRAYER

Our All Wise and discerning God, help every Church to form an Adjudication Committee that would make righteous and sound decisions for her spiritual growth and numerical growth unto maturity.

Help is to break away from arrogance and pride that makes Church matters appear before the state courts in Jesus' name.

We pray that we choose humility and peace in place of going to pagan courts and be humiliated before unbelieving Lawyers and Judges. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE FAILURE OF THE CHURCH IS HER INABILITY TO ENFORCE GOD'S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT (HUMILITY & FOCUS) BUT RESORT TO PAGAN AND LEGAL ACTIONS IN SETTLEMENT AND DEFENSE OF DISPUTES (PRIDE & ARROGANCE). **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

JEWISH AND ROMAN COURTS USED DIFFERENT RULES AND LAWS TO SETTLE DISPUTES RESPECTIVELY. LIKewise THE BACKGROUND, CIRCUMSTANCE AND CONDITIONS OF A MATTER DETERMINES WHETHER ITS SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE AT THE STATE COURTS OR SETTLED THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS. HENCE THE PRACTICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH WITH SUCCESSFUL AND ETERNAL RESULTS FROM ADJUDICATION OWN CASES AND DISPUTES MUST BE REVISITED AND ENCOURAGED. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ITS PROMISES

INSPIRATION

When a true father stamps on his feet to correct all wrong doings in the Church, he is not just interested in Church numbers (**QUANTITY**) but obedience to the complete gospel of Jesus Christ (**QUALITY**). Indeed interested in quantity must have equal measure of quality in the Church.

The bible talks about the fatherly role of the Prophet Samuel with the Israelites during Saul's coronation. He promised to pray for them and teach them the good and right way (**1 Corinthians 12:23**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:8 – 10 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Apostle Paul's justification of his rebuke, instructions for correctional, discipline and salvation to the Corinthian Church was also as a result of the corrupt state/Church leadership and members. He found out that they practiced and tolerated worldly things like sexual immoralities and cheating in the Church.

CORRECTION AND DISCIPLINE ARE A FATHER'S WEAPON THAT PROTECTS AND PRESERVE GOD'S INTEREST IN THE CHURCH AND BEYOND.

People who cheat are known to be greedy, covetous, unfaithful, not truthful, not merciful, not God fearing, and use worldly and pagan principles to outsmart people without recourse to God's righteousness in Christ and the Holy Spirit. Paul realized that instead of allowing themselves to be cheated by dishonest people and avert going to debate and argue Church matters at pagan courts, they rather became perpetrators of all the sins enumerated.

Apostle Paul reminded them that only the righteous will inherit the Kingdom of God and associated promises. The unrighteous have no place in the Kingdom of God because of their unbelief and disobedience to God's offer of salvation in Jesus Christ. This explains why his word of instruction was strong and sharp because the world had penetrated into the Church instead of the Church penetrating into the world. Hence the enumerated sins.

IT IS A SIN FOR THE WORLD TO ENTER THE CHURCH AND INFLUENCE US NEGATIVELY BUT RIGHTEOUS FOR THE CHURCH TO ENTER THE WORLD AND INFLUENCE POSITIVELY.

The sins of the past were still working and prevalent in the Corinthian Church. Pagan practices and activities was the order of the day as a sign of insensitiveness to the Holy Spirit and disregard to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were not spiritual but the works of the flesh and carnal.

Enumerated sins in **verses 9 & 10** were earlier spoken against in **chapter 5 verse 10**. These sins identified in the Church were associated with pagans in the world and revealed God's wisdom to evangelize them. However, **verse 11 of chapter five** reveals God's rebuke and judgment not to even associate and eat with them in the Church. For God does not want His Church to be partakers in these sins and be corrupted. Yes God does not His holy Church to be partners in crime.

A critical look of the enumerated sins by Paul showed the distinction between sexual sins and physical sins that defile the human body and holiness of the Church. He stated specific sexual sinners such as fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals and sodomites as a warning to the Church to repent because they could not inherit the kingdom of God in this state of corruption.

Also Paul stated certain corruptible physical sinners of idolaters, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and extortioners as a warning to the Church to repent because they could not inherit the kingdom of God in this corruptible state.

Let us do a brief explanation of them as spiritual afro barometers to ascertain, assess and evaluate our obedience, commitment and faithfulness levels.

A// Sexual sins

- 1. Fornicators** – men and women, boys and girls with habitual sex before marriage (**Ephesians 5:3, 5b**). The bible described Esau as a prolific fornicator and profane in nature (**Hebrews 12:16**) God prefers married people who have sexual relationships with their spouses other than fornicators and adulterers (**Hebrews 13:4**).
- 2. Adulterers** – married men and women who have sex outside their marriages like David with Bathsheba (**Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 5:18, Proverbs 6:32, 2 Samuel 11:1 – 4, Matthew 5:32**). Adultery is one of the works of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19**).
- 3. Homosexuals** – men and women who have sex with same sex types. The sins of Sodom and Gomorrah recorded abominable sexual sins of this nature (**Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:25 – 27**).
- 4. Sodomites** – men and women who have sex with the sex organs or mouth or anus with people or animals. The sins of Sodom and Gomorrah involved abominable sins of sodomy (**Genesis 19:4 – 7, 12 & 13, Deuteronomy 23:17, Judges 19:22, 1 Timothy 1:10b**).

B// Physical sins

1. **Idolaters** – These are people who worship idols made by human hands through tradition, culture and religion or have idols in their hearts exalted above God and His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It involves fetishism, heresy, occult, sacrilege, and all forms of ungodliness through strange religions and cults (**Leviticus 19:4, 2 Kings 17:15, Psalms 97:7, 106:36, 115:4, Jeremiah 2:5, Ezekiel 14:3 – 7, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Ephesians 5:5e**).
2. **Thieves** – These are people who steal money and things from other people (**Exodus 20:15, 21:16, 22:1 – 4**). The bible described Judas Iscariot as a thief who stole from the money bag occasionally as a disciple of Jesus Christ (**John 12:1 – 3, 4 – 6**). It include also those who help other people to steal from others through ill advice and as beneficiaries (**Psalms 50:18, Proverbs 29:24**). Why should suffer as a thief if in Christ (**1 Peter 4:15**)?
3. **Covetous** – Having a great desire to possess something that belongs to another person (**Psalms 119:36, Proverbs 28:16, Luke 12:15, 1 Timothy 3:3**). It is synonymous with envy.
4. **Drunkards** – People who are habitually drunk. It means that the bottle of alcohol never departs from the table of a drunkard. Truly, the words and works of drunkards are sinful and evil in all respects because the mind is subject to the controlling power of alcohol. The bible talks about our past lives as unbelieving sinners with drunkenness among other sins associated with us (**1 Peter 4:3**). Don't backslide. Hence they cannot speak righteous words and do the works inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are prone to manipulations by the devil just like mad people.

This is why the mother of King Lemuel told the son that it is not good for kings to be drunk with alcohol and forget the law and pervert justice for the defenseless, marginalized and the poor and all the afflicted (**Proverbs 31:4 & 5**). The bible commands us not to be drunk with wine in which there is excess but be filled with the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**).

5. **Revilers** – People who speak abusively or contemptuously to or of another person or thing. It means to attack with evil words (**Exodus 22:18**). It has synonyms of dislike and hatred just as Jesus was reviled on the cross; yes be careful of people who revile the cross and deity of Jesus (**Matthew 27:44, Mark 15:32**). Truly revilers are people who use words to damage, control, or insult someone's character or reputation (**Jude 1:8**). Today we call a reviler verbal abuser. We don't need revilers in the Church because they disrespect authority and dignitaries and look down on others. They cannot be led by the Holy Spirit and the word of God but subject to their selfish interests and goals; whims and caprices (**Matthew 5:11, Psalms 35:1, 15**). The Church is commanded not to eat and have fellowship with revilers (**1 Corinthians 5:11**).

6. Extortionists – These are people who try to obtain something through force or violence. Its legal definition is the use of force or the threat of force to obtain money or another item of value from another person. Many jurisdictions classify extortion as crime against property or a theft related offense. But the threat of harm to a person is an essential element of the offense. Blackmailing somebody to get money is a form of extortion. That is threatening to bring out a secret of a person and using payment of money or promotion, favour, or any other benefit is a form of extortion **(Luke 18:11, 1 Corinthians 6:10)**.

In the bible tax collectors were noted for being extortioners and this explains why the Israelites considered them as sinners. This explains also why Zacchaeus restored fourfold monies forcefully taken from the people when he encountered Jesus and was convicted, repented and believed Him as Saviour and Lord **(Luke 19:1 – 10)**.

For the scripture tells us that God has made man upright but the people sought their own schemes **(Ecclesiastics 7:29)**. In this context, this scripture is applicable to the unleavened nature and conditions of the Church which was corrupted by the leavened nature of the desires and taste of the Church members.

When the holy Church intermarry with the state in a negative way, all forms of unrighteousness as well as fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners are attracted into the Church. For these sins outside the Church in the world will not inherit the kingdom of God.

It means to say also that that they will not have kingdom power to enforce God's will on earth in a geographical setting; the kingdom of heaven. They cannot pray and apply God's word by the Holy Spirit to change people and situations. Yes their own geographical setting will be full of unrighteous things that clearly inhibits the power of God in their midst.

Besides, hypocritical living in the Church popularly known as secret sins must be rebuked by Church leadership to reorder the lives of Church members in righteousness and holiness. For we have the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment **(John 16:8)**.

New King James Bible Commentary: The kingdom of God here seems to refer to a future time when God will rule the earth in righteousness (see Matthew 6:10, Luke 11:2).

Do not be deceived – Tragically, sometimes bad elements in the Church deceive themselves into thinking that God does not require them to live righteously. Paul emphasizes that the kinds of people listed in these verses will not inherit or possess the kingdom of God.

PAUL'S REBUKE OF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS IS A WAKE UP CALL TO ALL CHURCHES THAT GOD IS NOT PARTIAL IN HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS. FOR ALL SEXUAL SINNERS AND PHYSICAL SINNERS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. REPENTANCE AND RIGHTEOUS LIVING AND HOLY LIVING HAVE THE PROMISE OF ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS.

PRAYERS

May God help us to stop and cast out demons that perpetuate sins in the Church.

With the gospel of Jesus Christ, prayer, and leading of the Holy Spirit, may we have the confidence and boldness to stand for righteousness and speak and write against every form of unrighteousness in Jesus' name. Amen.

WHEN THE CHURCH LEADER IS SEEING WELL AND CAN PINPOINT CERTAIN SINS IN THE CHURCH TO WARN THE MEMBERS, THE FUTURE OF THAT CHURCH IS PEACE. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES OF WARNINGS, REBUKE, CORRECTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS AGAINST SEXUAL SINS AND OTHER SINS PRACTICED BY CHURCH MEMBERS ARE INEVITABLE WHEN THE MINISTERS AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP USE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD. FOR YOU CANNOT BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND KEEP SILENT OVER SIN IN THE CHURCH. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE TRUTH; OUR CONFIDENCE; REMINDER OF GRACE WORK IN SALVATION

INSPIRATION

When a true father stamps on his feet to correct all wrong doings in the Church, he is not just interested in Church numbers but obedience to the complete gospel of Jesus Christ (**1 Corinthians 4:15**). Indeed interest in quantity must have equal measure of quality in the Church. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:11 – And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Paul went beyond rebuke and reminded the Corinthians of their former sinful lives before salvation. It was through a process of salvation to make them acceptable to God as a Church. If only they would repent of their sins and be restored, God would make this eternal process alive in Christ and the Holy Spirit. Below are the four (4) salient areas:

A// And such were some of you: Reveals our corrupt state when the devil ruled our lives before we became born again.

B// But you were washed: The blood of Jesus washed away all our sins and corrupt state in the forgiveness of sins. To be spiritually cleansed by God.

C// But you were sanctified: The process of cleansing daily by God's word and the Holy Spirit to be spiritual and not carnal. It involves also having the mind of Christ to replace the carnal mind. To be set apart as God's people.

D// But you were justified: Justification has to do with approval and acceptance by God to be His children and righteous, without condemnation, in the name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. This excludes the standard of the world and any pagan practice. To be declared righteous by God because of the finished work on the cross.

This reminder was to make them see their backslidden and corrupt state and cause a turning point in their Christian lives. It reminded them of the spiritual conversion levels of God's investments in them through the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God was willing to restore them to the pure fire of the gospel of Jesus Christ if they obeyed the command to be righteous and spiritual and not carnal.

Ministers and Church leaders with the heart of a father over their members must keep reminding of God's grace work in their lives and the Church to uproot the seed of corruption and backsliding. God does not waste His eternal investments in our lives, ministries and the Church (**Romans 8:29 & 30**). Therefore be in God's perfect will to

teach it as a reminder to the Church. Let their spiritual growth unto maturity be your righteous concern **(2 Peter 3:17 &18)**.

Be wise and interested like Apostle Paul because Church Members constitute the Church and can help or corrupt the churches by their tastes, lifestyles and contributions. For a strong Church advances Christ's mission and vision unlike a weak Church.

New King James Bible Commentary: In this verse Paul uses three terms to describe the conversion of the Corinthians. The tense of all three verbs indicate an action in the past that is complete. Washed means spiritually cleansed by God. Sanctified means set apart as God's people. Justified means declared righteous by God because of Christ's work on the Cross.

PAUL'S REMINDER AND REBUKE WAS A WAKE UP CALL TO DESIST FROM THE WORKS OF THE FLESH BUT BE SPIRITUAL. IF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS WASHED THEM WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, SANCTIFIED BY GOD'S WORD AND HOLY SPIRIT, AND DECLARED RIGHTEOUS, THEY HAD NO EXCUSE TO INDULGE IN SINFUL PRACTICES BUT PERFORM RIGHTEOUS WORKS.

PRAYER

Thank You O God for the finished work of Christ for us. The process of being made holy and qualified for heaven as a Church cannot be ignored.

We pray for all Ministers and Church leaders to constantly remind their members their sinful lives before they were washed and cleansed thoroughly by the blood of Jesus.

We pray for grace to be sanctified daily with God's word and Holy Spirit and be approved and accepted by God always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FATHERS OF CHURCHES WOULD BE PRAISED AND REWARDED FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, FRUITFULNESS AND MATURITY OF THEIR MEMBERS. THEY WILL ALSO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR CORRUPTION OF THEIR MEMBERS. KNOW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

WE CANNOT REWRITE OUR PAST BUT WE CAN MAKE RIGHTEOUS DECISIONS TO SHAPE OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE. HISTORY THEN BECOMES THE STEPPING STONE TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE. HENCE OUR PAST SINFUL LIVES NO LONGER MATTER TO GOD OTHER THAN FAITH IN CHRIST NOW HAVING BEEN SANCTIFIED AND JUSTIFIED. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

FREEDOM IN CHRIST CANNOT BE ABUSE OF POWER; SEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH, MATURITY AND EDIFICATION

INSPIRATION

When people know their worth in life, it is expressed in desires, tastes, and passion. These are people with a sense of purpose and drive in their Christian faith to be successful in life before God and people. For they are led by the word of God and the Holy Spirit in life, ministry and the Church.

In a dispensation of rights and freedoms embedded in the constitutions of countries, organizations and institutions and companies and associations, it is a fact that people follow the law whether good or bad and are unconcerned about the destruction of human relationships and Godly relationship and Church relationship.

But Paul as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ did not allow his conscience to offend God in any way before Governor Felix. He chose to obey God in preaching Christ and led by the Holy Spirit even in defense of his ministry against seditious allegations maligned against him by the Chief Priest Ananias **(Acts 24:16)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:12 – All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Paul's apostolic ministry founded the Church in Corinth and but he did not see it as an opportunity to abuse his authority and manipulate them **(Acts 18:1, 8, 1 Corinthians 1:3)**. Besides, Paul from the beginning of his ministry was determined to know the benefits of the cross of Jesus in the Church **(1 Corinthians 2:2)**.

This divine declaration was to demonstrate to the Corinthian Christians the need to live the Christian life of faithfulness and discipline in the power of the Holy Spirit and not by their whims and caprices. There are two (2) revelations in them.

1// All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. This has to do with the mindset of the Christian; that is to have the mind of Christ and not the mind of the world for instructional purpose **(1 Corinthians 2:16)**. The bible speaks to us in **Proverbs 12:5** **“The thoughts of the righteous are right, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.”**

In other words, though the law permitted him to do all things, Paul understood by the scriptures and the gospel of Jesus Christ, and discerning of spirits by the Holy Spirit that not everything was beneficial to his Christian faith and apostolic ministry.

Besides, it has to do with the knowledge and wisdom of God than that of the world **(Hosea 6:3 & 6)**. Know that only things that are helpful in your Christian faith and life is what you must like, accept and do like prayers and obedience to the word of God.

Things that would not be helpful to you spiritually and offend God like the sins of the Corinthian Church should not be liked, tolerated, encouraged and allowed to corrupt and damage your Christian faith, morals and values.

YOUR RIGHT TO ALL THINGS MUST NOT OFFEND GOD, JESUS CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ANYTIME ANYWHERE. YOUR RIGHT TO ALL THINGS MUST NOT BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AS WELL AS THE CHURCH.

2// All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Why **(Proverbs 16:25)** There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Apostle Paul revealed that he had made a firm decision not to allow himself to revert to ceremonial practices and life of self – righteousness that Jesus Christ had set him free. To be enslaved by the very things that Jesus nailed on the cross was waste of divine time and resources. This was the opposite in the Corinthian Church because the world had entered the Church.

In other words, Paul was not going to succumb to the controlling power of the law but the Holy Spirit leading. This was not rhetoric or boasting in the flesh because he was very prayerful, understood and taught the word of God accurately. It is important to note that though the law permitted the Jews to stone the woman caught in adultery, He refused to be ruled by the law but showed love, mercy and compassion and forgiveness **(John 8:1 – 12)**.

IN CHRIST, WE NEED THINGS AND NOT LUST FOR THINGS. IN CHRIST, WE OBEY GOD'S WORD AND THE DIRECTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ESCAPE THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND THE DEVIL.

The perception of freedom in the Corinthian Church was misconstrued to be freedom to do anything just at the thought and desire of it. Known in the Corinthian society was worldly lusts and sexual immoralities.

It meant that the world had entered into the Church; people came into the Church with their worldly baggage of norms, traditions, rituals, cultures. It was like the Israelites in the land of Canaan but Egypt was in them; I mean the works of the flesh, idol worship, sexual immoralities, spirit of pride, arrogance and disobedience associated with Pharaoh and ancient Egypt **(Exodus 32, Psalms 141:4)**.

CHURCH LEADERS MUST HAVE THE EYE TO SEE AND DISCERN TO KNOW THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES AND MAKE THEM CONFORM TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ALL THE TIME. LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE IS GOD'S WILL FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

New King James Bible Commentary: All things are lawful for me was a slogan the Corinthians had coined to justify their immoral behaviour. Paul reminded the

Corinthians that freedom from the ceremonial laws of Moses did not give them the license to sin or indulge their own selfishness. This would only enslave in the sin from which Jesus had freed them.

Under the power of any: The only power that should control us is the Holy Spirit. Sin should never dominate our lives because the Spirit empowers us to fight temptation.

Today we have so much freedom in the Church that we have abused God's word in Christ by the Holy Spirit. We have disrespected the Trinity because of societal demand and pressures to please people. The Church of God is being robbed of prayer, the gospel of Jesus Christ and glory through entertainment activities, sexual immoralities, stealing, extortioners, and other secret cults and practices all in the name of freedom in all things and showing oratory abilities and spiritual gymnastics.

Overcome also as Jesus overcame His temptations by the devil **(Luke 4:1 – 15)**. If you can pray and do a miracle, then the anointing is on you like Jesus Christ **(Acts 10:38)**. Find out what is acceptable to the Lord as a member of His Church and obey **(Ephesians 5:10)**. Indeed the norm has been that we easily blame Ministers, Church workers and Church leaders and Christian leaders of committing sexual immoralities in the likes of the corrupt sons of Eli in the temple of Shiloh **(1 Samuel 2:22 – 25)**. But we forget our own sins of sexual immoralities done in the secret and open like the Church of Corinth where a man was sleeping with the father's wife, incest, that even pagans were not associated with them.

Paul charges all of us to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit and not the works of the flesh **(Galatians 5:19 – 21, 22 – 24)**. After all we are predestined to conform to image of the Lord Jesus Christ **(Romans 8:29 & 30)**. And let our works in and outside the Church lead to edification beyond personal interests **(Romans 15:2, Ephesians 4:29)**.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS IS THAT FREEDOM IN CHRIST DOES NOT MEAN LICENSE TO BE INVOLVED IN SEXUAL IMMORALITIES AND CORRUPT PRACTICES. FOR HE BELIEVED AND PREFERRED SPIRITUALITY TO CARNALITY, EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH TO CORRUPTION OF THE CHURCH, AND ETERNAL LIFE TO PERISHING IN HELL FIRE OR THE LAKE OF FIRE.

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to be discerning by the gospel of Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, and not abuse our freedom in the Churches.

In all our thoughts, words and works, help us to attain edification of the Church in Jesus' name.

POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY – **LORD ACTON**

A SEEKING HEART TO KNOW AND OBEY THE COMPLETE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST WITH CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE, COMMITMENT, FAITHFULNESS AND EDIFICATION IS TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST AND NOT ABUSE OF FREEDOM IN CHRIST. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

YOU CANNOT HIDE UNDER ANY LAW TO SIN AND OFFEND GOD AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN FILLED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR THE GRACE OF GOD MAKES US RESPECT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT AND JUDGMENT AND RECEIPT OF ETERNAL REWARDS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

NOT FOOD FOR THE STOMACH BUT OBEYING GOD'S WORD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

INSPIRATION

Your spiritual life and understanding of the ways of God in Christ influence and makes you prefer righteousness to eating and drinking food. Yes you have to eat and be healthy but must be superseded with the word of God. Jesus said that man must not live by bread alone but live by every word that proceed from the mouth of the Lord **(Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4)**. Be discerning because the Holy Spirit is in you.

Comparatively, there is another group of people who are not spiritual but carnal to the extent that it is noticeable in the way they eat food and drink wine and alcohol beverages, and lust for sexual immorality as works of the flesh. Indeed the taste of this world is different from the taste of the kingdom of God **(Psalms 38:8, 1 Peter 2:3)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:13 & 14 – Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Another slogan common among the Corinthians to justify their strong appetite and lust was "Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods." They believed that the stomach has been prepared to receive food and this natural connection must be there. They believed also that hunger is not good for the body and therefore people must eat to satisfy their hunger, look good and be healthy. In the same way, they satisfied their sexual hunger and lust with anybody anywhere. In the Corinthian society, this was normal in the minds of the people.

GOD'S WORD IS SUPERIOR TO WORLDLY SLOGANS, TRADITIONS, CULTURES AND DOCTRINES.

Apostle Paul's concern was about the worldly situation that had been brought into the Church. The Christians had been degraded from the spiritual to the world of sin. The spirit of lust for sex was as strong as the lust for food for the stomach.

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE PLAYGROUND FOR SEX AND SEXUAL IMMORALITIES. RATHER IT IS GOD'S HOUSE, A PLACE OF PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, HOLINESS AND GLORY WITH JESUS CHRIST AS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

The message was that God would destroy this slogan of the Corinthians and doctrine because it is worldly and demonic and not spiritual, Christ-like and beneficial. It is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ which places emphasis on holiness and righteousness as Christians. God's word true as written in

Romans 14:17 & 18 – "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men."

Paul's gospel emphasized on the spirituality of the kingdom of God to be righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, and not eating and drinking, and partying and demonstration of the works of the flesh like fornication, adultery, stealing and idol worship.

EVERY SIN SHALL BE JUDGED AND CONDEMNED. THE SIN OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY IS AGAINST THE BODY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES AND MAKES US CHRIST-LIKE.

Apostle Paul reiterated the truth that the connection between our bodies for God thrives on holiness and righteous works in the Holy Spirit. The body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord and the Lord for the body. Therefore Jesus owns our bodies because He paid the high debt of sin to redeem us from the curse of the law of self – righteousness and bondage of sin. The hope of resurrection of our bodies would be by the power of God having shown as the righteous example of raising Christ's body from the dead.

On this premise, the Corinthian Christians should have lived good Christian lives without lust for sex and engaging in sexual immoralities like the way the Corinthian society lusted for food and sex. To overcome this temptation like Jesus we must always remember that man shall not live by bread alone but every word that comes from the word of God **(Deuteronomy 8:3, Luke 4:1 – 4)**, Don't be like Nabal who loved to eat and fill his belly daily but was undiscerning in the will of God for his family **(1 Samuel 25:1 – 39)**.

IN CHRIST, THERE IS NO NEGOTIATION FOR HOLY LIVING. HENCE PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH WAS THAT THE BELIEVERS SHOULD PRIORITIZE AND CHOOSE SPIRITUALITY OVER CARNALITY WHERE OBEDIENCE AND THE ROLE THE HOLY SPIRIT PREPARE THEIR BODIES FOR ETERNITY WITH GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Apostle Paul revealed that God's grace is available for a holy living as His power of salvation and redemption has been demonstrated in Jesus' resurrection from the grave. This means that the resurrection of Jesus from the grave is linked to the liberation from the power of sin of all people who believe in Him as Saviour and Lord.

New King James Bible Commentary: The digestive process of food in the stomach is a natural phenomenon with no eternal benefits. However the body of the Believing Christian has been sanctified by God to bring Him glory. But God will destroy both food and stomach because they are of the earth and not heaven bound. Rather the Believing Christian should focus on sanctification of the body

where the Holy Spirit empowers us in God's grace to be holy and righteous bound for heaven. For our bodies would be raised in the resurrection.

PRAYER

Dear God, we pray that we will live in knowledge of Your will to love Your word always and be led by the Holy Spirit to shape our Christian lives, ministries and the Church.

May we never be a people whose lives are shaped by foods and drinks because they have no eternity benefits for us.

We pray that Your Holy Spirit helps us to maintain our faith in Christ through obedience to Your word and sanctification of our bodies.

Help us to choose spirituality over carnality by being holy in body and in the Church to be qualified for heaven.

Make us wise in Christ by the Holy Spirit in Jesus name and may we come to the resurrection of the body which is achievable by the word of God in holiness, righteousness and being spiritual.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOD'S WORD; THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO WORLDLY SLOGANS, TRADITIONS, CULTURES AND DOCTRINES. NANA KWAKU DUODU

I AM IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS FOR ETERNAL BLESSINGS; NOT A PROSTITUTE FOR A CURSE

INSPIRATION

When a leader identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the people, it is a sign of good leadership, effective management and maturity. The bible tells us to be diligent to know the state of our flocks and attend to them **(Proverbs 27:23)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:15 – 17 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Apostle Paul provoked the conscience of the Corinthians Believers by questioning them whether they were conscious of their union with Christ since the day they put their faith in Him as Saviour and Lord. For their bodies were members of Christ. That is their sense of belonging was Christ and no longer the world. By this truth, he revealed being in an eternal relationship with God and having the Holy Spirit in them.

Hence Paul did not understand why they should be joined to a prostitute whose body is in union with the devil and demons of lust, anger, trickery, mammon, and destruction. For they were holy to God in Christ and should not allow themselves to be polluted and corrupted with the sexual sins of a prostitute.

As he revealed, one cannot be in sexual union with a prostitute without being contaminated with her sins. The bible says that having sex with a neighbour's wife or a prostitute is like putting coals of fire in one's bosom and be burnt by fire. It is also likened to walking on coals of fire and be burnt by it **(Proverbs 6:27 – 29)**. For the day you have sex with a harlot, you become one flesh like the marriage and sexual union between a man and a woman. But when one is joined to the Lord, you become one spirit with Him; heart and mind joined together.

Hence Paul warning and rebuke was that the human body is for the Lord Jesus Christ and not for sexual immoralities **(1 Corinthians 5:1)**. Our sense of belonging is Jesus Christ because He paid the debt of sin on the cross and freed us through His resurrection from the grave. Like the Corinthian Church, every Christian is expected to use parts of the human body to honour and glorify God because we are members of Christ's body and also have the residence of the Holy Spirit in us.

OUR SENSE OF BELONGING AS CHRISTIANS IS JESUS CHRIST; NOT WITH PROSTITUTES. OUR UNION WITH CHRIST IS HOLY WITH ETERNAL BENEFITS AND NOT PROSTITUTES WITH CORRUPTION FOR JUDGMENT.

This same revelation has been expounded by Apostle Paul in **Romans 12:5** so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

MANY CHRISTIANS AND CHURCHES BUT ONE IN CHRIST.

and

Galatians 3:28 – There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

BEING THE SAME IN CHRIST JESUS WITH ONE MIND AND CONFESSION IRRESPECTIVE OF SEX TYPE, ETHNIC BACKGROUND, SEX, EDUCATIONAL LEVEL, RICH OR POOR.

Paul's message to the Corinthian Church was that there is a strong and unbreakable holy union between believers and Christ Jesus. For this reason, it is unholy and improper for this union to be attached and affected by a union with a harlot who is a prostitute in modern day parlance. It reveals corruption and mixture of pure and clean water with dirty water. It is like Jesus Christ sitting at table with the devil to agree on answering the prayers of Christians and using the gospel to change the world. IMPOSSIBLE!

OUR UNION WITH JESUS CHRIST IS STRONGER AND MORE POTENT THAN THE UNION OF THE DEVIL, DEMONS AND FOLLOWERS.

The danger of prostitution and sexual immoralities is that it is also associated with a strong bond and union that is equivalent to Christ's union with the Church, and the marriage union between a man and a woman. You cannot be a Christian in union with Christ and also be in union with prostituting men and women and demons and idols. Why should spirits and demons and the devil and wicked people and sinful people be having sex with you in your dreams, and consciously? As Paul wrote, the body is not meant for sexual immorality. These things are clear harlotry to their polluted union with Christ.

THE DANGER OF PROSTITUTING IS THAT IT REVERSES YOUR RIGHTEOUS POSITION AND CORRUPTS YOU FOR THE DEVIL'S USE.

Human wisdom and intelligence fall short because of the sinful Adamic nature. Besides, the union of Christ is spiritual and divine unlike the union with a harlot that is earthly and destructive. King Solomon speaks of the same thing as written in **Proverbs 5:3 – 6 & 19 – 20**. It is better to be quickened by the sight and beauty (includes breasts all the lovely parts) of your wife than that of an immoral and seductive girl or woman or old lady. The same is also true for the married men **(Proverbs 5:19)**.

Another danger is that it is so strong and addictive that even if for experimental, investigative or research purpose, it would contradict a Christian's holiness and righteousness and make the Holy Spirit ineffective in life and ministry and the Church.

THE DANGER OF PROSTITUTING IS THAT IT HAS NO CLASS OF DISTINCTION. IT MAKES YOU DIRTY LIKE A PIG PLAYING IN DIRTY WATER.

The bible tells us to go far away from the door of the immoral woman. For in the end, he shall die for lack of instruction and in the greatness of his folly, he shall go astray **(Proverbs 5:8, 23)**.

It is important to note that sexual immoralities and especially prostitution revealed Israel's unfaithfulness and needed repentance **(Hosea 4:1 – 12, 5:4, 6:10, Ezekiel 20:30)**.

If our union in Christ is endorsed by the Holy Spirit and beneficial to our Christian relationships, then union with the spirit of harlotry is unholy and damaging to us, the Churches, Body of Christ and Kingdom of God. **BE WISE BUDDY.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALWAYS PART OF OUR UNION IN CHRIST. HENCE WE CANNOT SHARE OUR BODIES WITH PROSTITUTES WHO ARE LOADED WITH DEMONS AND LUSTS AND AS AGENTS OF THE DEVIL.

New King James Bible Commentary: Believers lives are greatly altered when they are joined to Christ. The union affects both the Believer and the Christ. When a Believer commits immorality, he or she is dragging the union with Christ into the illicit relationship. By quoting Genesis 2:24, that the two ... shall become one flesh. By this truth, Paul illustrates the seriousness of sexual sins.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the warning about the dangers of sexual immoralities in the Church as Believing Christians.

Help us to maintain our holy union in Christ and avoid any damaging union with prostitutes.

Help us to overcome every challenging situation with Your word and Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name Amen

TO TRUST IN GOD IS TO OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. IT IS THE SAFEST WAY TO MAINTAIN OUR HOLY UNION WITH CHRIST AND KEEP AWAY FROM THE CORRUPT UNION WITH PROSTITUTES. NANA KWAKU DUODU

THE CHURCH MUST ALWAYS BE FILLED WITH BELIEVING CHRISTIANS WHOSE UNION WITH CHRIST CANNOT BE QUESTIONED BUT EDIFY OTHER BELIEVING CHRISTIANS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

FLY FROM SEXUAL SINS; KEEP YOUR PURE CHRISTIAN FAITH

INSPIRATION

When a leader identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the people under care, it is a sign of good leadership, effective management and maturity. The bible tells us to be diligent to know the state of our flocks and attend to them (**Proverbs 27:23**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 6:18 – 20 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

The command to flee from sexual immorality is so urgent to reveal its damaging and destructive effects on the human body and Christian relationship with God, and the Church with Jesus Christ as the head. Once it touches you, it becomes a pool of water that you drink and swim in it till destruction or God's intervention.

THE SIN OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY IS SO STRONG AND POTENT TO TRAP EVEN THE RIGHTEOUS WHO LOSE FOCUS. BOTH GREAT AND SMALL, MASTERS, MISTRESSES AND SLAVES AND SUBJECTS HAVE FALLEN BECAUSE OF SEXUAL SINS.

Apostle Paul revealed further that the Corinthian slogan that all sins outside the body was false and misleading to justify the practice of sexual immoralities even in the Church. However, the sin of sexual immoralities is against your own body which is the temple and habitation of the Holy Spirit.

Sexual sins defile and damage your own body which houses the presence of God. You grieve the Holy Spirit anytime you are involved in them (**Ephesians 4:24**).

THE HOLY SPIRIT SEES THE SPIRIT OF LUST AND SEX IN THE HUMAN BODY AS AN ENEMY TO BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY.

This is the extent of corruption in the Corinthian Church as a result of the strong influence of worldly practices and doctrines. Apostle Paul made it clear to them that the residence of the Holy Spirit in the human body is for holy living and righteous works. It affirms the truth that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a proof of God's ownership of our bodies.

THE HOLY SPIRIT NEEDS A HUMAN BODY THAT IS NOT CORRUPTED BY SEXUAL SINS FOR THE WORKS LIKE THAT OF MARY; MOTHER OF JESUS.

New King James Bible Commentary: **Verse 18** – Every sin that a man does is outside the body was another slogan used by the Corinthians to justify their immorality (**verses 12 & 13**). Paul pointed out that the opposite is true. Sexual sin is done against the body; not outside of it. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to flee any temptation to indulge in sexual sins (**Genesis 39:1 – 12**).

Being bought at a price portrays a slave who is purchased by a master bath. It reveals the hopeless state of man and God's intervention in Christ to set us free. Our sense of belonging is now Jesus Christ and not ourselves. Once a slave is purchased, it means a new master is in place and the purchased slave now obeys the new master in all ways.

WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, CHRISTIANS LIVE FOR GOD IN CHRIST AND NO LONGER FOR SELF – RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE DEVIL. WE ARE SLAVES TO GOD IN CHRIST UNLIKE THE DEVIL IN SIN.

It means that Christians live for Jesus Christ and therefore God by the Holy Spirit and not by worldly desires and instincts to fulfill lusts of the flesh; self – righteousness and the devil. Use the body and its members to pray, read and practice God's word, sing, praise, go to Church and do other works of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. In this, we rather honour and glorify God with our bodies than prostitute our bodies for sex, money, promotions and other favours in life and ministry.

GOD HAS GIVEN US THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LIVE AND PERFORM OUR CHRISTIAN WORKS IN HONOUR AND REVELATION OF HIS HOLY NAME. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE FOR GODLY WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND NOT THE PLANNING ROOM AND PLAYGROUND FOR SEX ADDICTS AND THEIR SEX DOCTRINES.

New King James Bible Commentary: **Verse 20** – Bought at a price alludes to someone purchasing a slave at the slave unction. With His death, Jesus Christ paid the cost to redeem us from our slavery to sin (**Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18 & 19**).

Again Paul says in

Romans 14:7 & 8 – For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Again Paul says in

2 Corinthians 5:15 – and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

WE LIVE FOR CHRIST WHETHER WE ARE ALIVE, OR DEAD THROUGH THE HOPE AND POWER OF RESURRECTION.

Let us take note that one of the main areas that the Jerusalem Church made decisions to protect the holiness of the Church and new and immature believers in the Gentile regions was to abstain from sexual immorality **(Acts 15:28 & 29)**. Clearly we don't grow a Church with sexual immoralities but the true teachings of Jesus Christ, prayers, evangelism and disciple making, breaking of bread, fellowship by the Holy Spirit. The former is deceptive even with initial gains but the latter with the promise and reward of everlasting gains.

PRAYER

Help us O Lord to flee from sexual immorality whenever it wants to entice and entrap us.

Help us Your Church to embrace holiness and have grace for spiritual growth and maturity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE DON'T GROW A CHURCH WITH SEXUAL IMMORALITIES BUT THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST, PRAYERS, EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLE MAKING, BREAKING OF BREAD, FELLOWSHIP BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE FORMER IS DECEPTIVE EVEN WITH INITIAL GAINS BUT THE LATTER WITH THE PROMISE AND REWARD OF EVERLASTING GAINS. NANA KWAKU DUODU



Writer: Nana Kwaku Duodu – You can make contact via

+2330547104895, +233202504350, +233276091904

Email Address: exploits34@yahoo.com

powermight41@gmail.com