

# Future Glory in Present Lives

## Week 4 in Our Weekly Study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Orchard Park Wesleyan Church

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### Introduction

I've been humbled again as I've studied the first half of chapter six for our devotional this week. What I always regarded as fairly clear-cut instruction on how to handle life within the body of Christ—with a particular focus on lawsuits—has resulted in a lot of time spent researching Final Judgment and Bible prophecy. We'll study these as well as some of the practical applications concerning how we interact with other believers. Since we're only focusing on the first half of the chapter this week, some of our daily readings in 1 Corinthians 6 will overlap, but they'll provide a topical framework for us and help us study these topics in greater depth elsewhere in scripture.

Before we start studying, I want to point out a general literary change that I think is important to note: Paul changes his tone in this chapter from the preceding ones—most notably, from the first four chapters. While we've already taken note of his sarcasm throughout the letter, it intensifies significantly through his use of rhetorical questions in chapter six.

I point this out because this is something I would have missed altogether even just a year or two ago. I've learned that we can miss so much of what God intends for us if we read His Word without noticing the emotion and tone of its divinely-inspired human writers. I did this for so long, and how wrong I was! God is the Author of emotion and creativity. He instills passion in His people and designs our very deepest personalities. So as we read chapter six in particular, let's note the frustration and the indignation, the sarcasm and righteous anger.

Paul aims directly at the Corinthian church's arrogance. He is sharp and caustic with the intention to shame a people who claim higher wisdom, yet exhibit none. Through his use of sarcasm and rhetorical questions, Paul turns the very thing the Corinthian church holds so dear—their "wisdom"—against them and exposes their worldly folly. Keep this in mind as you read this week. I think we'll see so much more when we read not just the words but the emotion behind them.

*Lord, we can't begin to express how thankful we are for Your Word. It is God-breathed, and it gives life to our souls. Make it come alive to us this week; teach us, correct us, train us, and equip us through it, Lord. We praise You and love You. We ask in the Name of Your Living Word, Jesus Christ, Amen.*

## **Day 1: The Heavenly Court**

*"Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life."*

1 Corinthians 6:3

Today will be one of a couple days this week that we'll be looking ahead to what God's Word says will come about on the Last Day. Of course, we won't get into every detail; there is so much to study that we simply can't. So we'll be researching just some of what God's Word says will happen on that Day.

*Eschatology* is the theological term for what we're studying today; it is defined as the "part of theology concerned with the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of humanity." "The Oxford English Dictionary defines eschatology as 'the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind'".<sup>1</sup>

As I mentioned in the introduction, I never realized how much eschatology is woven into this short chapter. It's so easy to read the first half of 1 Corinthians 6 and concentrate on the practical admonishments found therein. They are indeed important, and we'll spend several days this week studying how we ought to live with each other, especially concerning conflict. But we can really only receive the full impact of what Paul says in correction to this church when we consider the eschatological reason for the admonishment.

The Corinthian church, as we have seen them up to and including this point, were living as people of the world and not as God's chosen people set aside to shine as lights to the world. This was a huge problem for Paul because the church was living in opposition to what they really were. Their status as God's redeemed and the resulting future privileges and responsibilities of that status should have been so internalized that they would at least attempt to live out the present with the future in mind.

**Please read 1 Corinthians 6:1-3.**

In these opening few verses, Paul launches full-scale into reprimanding the Corinthian church. He hits his recipients with two sharply-worded rhetorical questions, which would indicate that these believers *should* have had some knowledge of their future responsibilities, privileges, and inheritance in Christ. In his

commentary on 1 Corinthians, Gordon Fee notes that we can rightly identify this as a partial source of Paul's frustration with the church: they were desperately lacking in knowledge concerning their identity, eschatological role, and future inheritance as Christ's people. I've known many in my life—and in fact, I *was* one—who want nothing to do with anything concerning future events and Bible prophecy. It can be confusing and scary for a number of reasons, but to us in the family of God, it is intended to encourage, enlighten, and prepare. Let's not imitate the Corinthian church in ignorance but rather seek a clearer understanding—or at least remind ourselves—of our role and inheritance as God's people. We'll only be concerned with one particular event today.

**Please read:**

Daniel 7:9-10, 21-22, 27

Matthew 13:36-43

Matthew 25:31-34

John 5:19-30

Revelation 20:11-15

- What event do these verses describe?
- Complete the questions below from 1 Corinthians 6:2-3.

“Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge \_\_\_\_\_?”

“Don't you realize that we will judge \_\_\_\_\_?”

### **The Day: Final Judgment**

From our readings today, we're going to organize a few of the fundamentals for ourselves. We're really setting the scene for Day 5 when we'll talk about our justification in Christ. So for now, let's concentrate on what this Day really is, how it's set up, and who we see present. We won't address the “when,” both for time's and argument's sake.

From the verses above (and many more), we know that there will come a day when God renders every person who ever lived accountable for what he or she did during life on earth. Even the dead will come forward out of the grave to face judgment. Here, we see the beginning scene and hear some of it described by Christ Himself. I am awed at the description of the Ancient One taking His seat on His throne and opening the books. I cannot imagine a more official, more reverent, more terrifying courtroom than is described here.

God is the One who initiates the Day and presides over it. But we are told in multiple passages of scripture, including John 5, that Christ is the One who is given authority to judge. Indeed, we see Him come forward to take His place in Daniel 7:13-14 and in Matthew 25:31. The Father gives Christ all “authority, honor, and sovereignty” (Dan. 7:), as well as “absolute authority to judge” (John 5:22). This is when, as Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 4:5, Christ will judge the secret and hidden motives of the heart. He holds the books—the ones that are a comprehensive record of every person’s deeds and the one that holds the names of His own people. Those who are found in the Lamb’s Book of Life, Christ will move to His right; they will be given authority and honor and will reign with Him in His kingdom forever (Dan. 22, 27). Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life do not belong to Jesus; they will be judged according to their deeds, gathered by Christ’s angels and given to the second death, which is an eternity spent in the lake of fire.

This is a hard teaching, not just because the details are difficult to sort out, but because this isn’t a lesson that ends on a note of victory for everyone. Some still choose not to follow Christ, and they are entitled to that choice. But my heart breaks for each one that chooses an eternity without Jesus. Pastor Dan has encouraged each of us to pray for specific people we love and who God has laid on our hearts; let’s renew our commitment and cover them in prayer.

### **The Church**

For those of us who belong to Christ, what we see on Judgment Day is just a glimpse of a future that is greater than our imaginations can comprehend! Our names are written in His Book of Life, so we are saved out of death and into eternal life with Jesus. However, we know from several passages in God’s Word that we, too, will be held accountable at Judgment.

In 1 Corinthians 3, we learned that the Day will reveal the worth of our work for Christ. Our works will be put to the test by fire; if our deeds burn away in the flames, though saved and His for eternity, we lose out on reward. If, however, we invest ourselves and those talents that God has entrusted to us in building up Christ’s kingdom, our work will remain through the fire, and we will receive our commendation from Him as His good and faithful servants.

But there will be more for us than just being present and having our hearts and work judged by Christ. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 6 that we will judge the world and angels. I’m going to stop us here for now, saving further study on this topic for Day 5. But let this truth roll around in your mind this week: that at God’s Final Judgment, those belonging to Christ are saved out of death and given a position of honor and authority. The Corinthian church either forgot or didn’t know this, and that deficit caused them to act in defeat, letting the world decide their fate, rather than acting like those reserved for honor, glory, and victory.

**Consider:** Where do you stand as it pertains to final events? Do you ignore or dislike hearing about them? Do you yearn for the Day? Or do you fall somewhere in between? 2 Timothy 4:8 says that the crown of righteousness is reserved for everyone who longs for Christ’s appearing—His return.

**Pray:** If you have any opposition in you toward God’s Word as it deals with prophecy final events, ask Him to give you a love for all of what He has in His Word. Ask Him to open your eyes, heart, and mind to what He says will come.

## Day 2: Qualified and Responsible

*"I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues?"*

1 Corinthians 6:5 NLT

Our key verse today is Paul's knock-out punch aimed directly at the pride of the Corinthian church. Remember, the Corinthians took such pride in their "wisdom" and thought it was their right to judge their leaders' abilities and effectiveness. As Gordon Fee points out in his commentary, they had it all backward! The Corinthians shrank from their responsibility to judge sin within the church and hold each other accountable (ch. 5); they ignored arguments between believers that resulted in lawsuits brought to trial in front of the unbelieving public; yet they thought it was their right to pass judgment on the effectiveness or talent of one church leader over another. How preposterous and backward!

So Paul hits them where it hurts in verses 5-6.

**Please read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6.**

As those who will participate with Christ in administering judgment in the heavenly courts, we, as His people, are not just qualified but responsible to judiciously handle affairs within the community of God. Pastor Dan talked about this last week as he taught about our responsibility to hold each other accountable within God's community. Left unchecked, our personal weaknesses or preferences can easily derail us from God's standards, tarnishing the reputation of Christ's body—and therefore Christ—to the outside world.

Settling disputes within the church is not so different. In the case of the Corinthian church, Paul received word that there was an argument between two people. The argument was likely over wealth or property, indicated by the original Greek word, *apostereō*, used for "defraud" in verse 7. It "would be particularly appropriate for unethical business practices among wealthy people."<sup>2</sup> So this argument continued, and the two involved parties took it to the local government to have it settled.

Why was this a problem? Paul himself speaks in favor of government in Romans 13. We're told that we, as believers, are to be submitted to our governing authorities. Paul's issue in 1 Corinthians 6 is not with government; *it is with the church*. It's the same issue that we've seen time and again within the Corinthian church, and it's called worldliness.

The Corinthian believers were not behaving according to their calling in Christ; they were behaving as the world around them did, cheating and defrauding each other and arguing about petty things like which leader was better. Instead of the church authorities rising up to handle the case, they forfeited their authority in the matter and let the two offending parties in the congregation put their worldliness, pettiness, and quarrelsomeness on display for the unbelieving world around them by taking the matter to public court.

If we believe God and His Word, then we know from yesterday's devotional that we will inherit His kingdom with Christ and be somehow involved in the judgment of the world. How, then, ought we to act at present?

**Please read Galatians 2:20, 4:1-7.**

- Fill in the blanks:

“My old self has been \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. It is no longer \_\_\_\_ who live, but \_\_\_\_\_ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20 NLT)

- To what were we enslaved?
  
- What did Christ do for us (v. 5)?
  
- What are we to God now (v. 5 and v. 7)?

The Corinthian church hadn't given up its love affair with the world. They hung on to their rights, possessions, and old identity with clenched fists. They certainly weren't acting like they had crucified their old selves with Christ, and they weren't behaving like heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven.

God is very clear in His Word about who He says we are and how He wants us to behave. (Being that the Corinthians had been disciplined by Paul, I would guess they had been taught these truths well, too.) However, the Corinthian church had either missed the point, neglected the truth, or flat-out refused to obey the rules. The result was that they let themselves fall into the world's ways of arguing and resolving arguments. They acted fleshly, unrighteous, and downright embarrassing to their Father.

But so it is with us as God's people. We have rights and responsibilities as the children of God, and though they're not fully realized here on earth, they should still influence our earthly behavior. The Corinthians forfeited that, at least for a time.

**Consider:** We are royalty; we just haven't been crowned yet. We are judges of the world; we just haven't been called into the courtroom yet.

**Pray:** Ask God to help you handle earthly matters with heavenly wisdom, responsibility, and authority. Ask Him to help you rise up and act the part of who you really are in Christ.

### Day 3: Conflict Between Believers

*“Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated?”*

1 Corinthians 6:7 NLT

Today’s study picks up right where yesterday’s left off. We talked at length about letting who God says we are and the role we know we’ll play in future events influence our conduct now. Of course, this can apply to everything we do, but today, we’re looking at it in light of how we handle conflict between believers.

**Please read 1 Corinthians 6:5-8.**

- What is Paul’s point in addressing this issue in the manner that he does with the Corinthian church (v. 5)?
- How are they defeated before they even get to court (v. 7)?
- What would be the better choice (v. 7)?
- Please fill in the blanks for John 34-35.

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love \_\_\_\_\_ . Just as I have loved you, you should love \_\_\_\_\_. Your \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ will prove to the \_\_\_\_\_ that you are my

disciples.” (John 13:34-35 NLT)

**Finally, read 1 John 4:20-21.**

Conflict among believers at all is something to be avoided as much as possible because, as Paul said so well, it is a defeat for us. Why? Because love for each other within the family of God is the one thing that proves that we follow Christ and love the Father. It’s that simple—and that difficult. It’s easy to think that we should be able to carry out one command; just love each other! But if it were easy, it wouldn’t be such a distinguishing factor from the rest of the world, would it?

As it is with all families, there are differences within the family of God. We all have different personalities, backgrounds, temperaments, preferences, desires, and even convictions. Loving each other can

be tricky sometimes. So how do we love each other and avoid conflict in an effort to live victoriously and show the world that we really do follow Christ?

One key lies within what we studied yesterday: that we are crucified to self. When we let “self” live freely, our motivations are driven by selfish desires. But when our old self is gone and Christ lives within us, we are filled with His Spirit, driven by His love and self-sacrifice.

**Another key to this is in Acts 2:42-47. Please read it.**

This earliest church group is the one that we should all want to emulate. They were growing exponentially, and they all got along! Let’s see how:

**They devoted their time and energies to the right things. What were they?**

**They spent lots of time together.**

I wanted to reference just one verse that would speak to how much time this church spent together, but I couldn’t; almost every verse

mentions some activity that these people did *together!*

- “All the believers devoted themselves...” (42).
- “A deep sense of awe came over them all...” (43)
- “And all the believers met together in one place...” (44).
- “They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals...” (46).

**They made generosity and praise priorities.**

In complete contrast to the Corinthian church, this church took what they had and shared it with each other. The focus in this early Jerusalem church was far from self-centered but rather wrapped up in the kind of love that Jesus said would testify to the whole world that they were His disciples. They shared, sold their own possessions so that they could use that money to help provide for those in need within the congregation, praised God, and were thankful for what they had.

The result? They enjoyed “the goodwill of all the people.” This church got along! There were no lawsuits being taken to public trial or petty squabbling over belongings. The church in Jerusalem showed Christ-like love to each other, sacrificed self for the Body, and enjoyed the fruit of that.

So now that we’ve established beyond any shadow of a doubt that we should live in peace with each



other and how to love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ should, what happens when an argument does arise? We are all human, and we will have differences. I'm sure even people within that early Jerusalem church had arguments; the difference is in how we are to handle those arguments as followers of Jesus.

**Please read Matthew 18:15-17.**

This is specific instruction that Jesus gave concerning sin from one believer against another believer. I take comfort in Him knowing that this could happen and giving us help for when it does, don't you? The help He gives protects the interests of both parties involved. The person who has sinned is protected from shame and being made a spectacle by being given an opportunity to listen and make things right; the person who has been wronged is not left without recourse if the offending person refuses to listen and work toward a solution.

**Consider:** In what condition are your relationships with other believers? What can you do to nurture those and build unity?

**Pray:** Thank God for His church. Though we're all so different and sometimes don't get along, He says that we are here to build each other up in faith and encouragement. If you have someone in your life who is tough to get along with, take that situation to the Lord, and ask Him to show you how to better love that person.

#### **Day 4: Behavior Matters**

*"Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God."*  
1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NLT

Our entire reading in Corinthians today is a short one and is actually written above as our verses for the day. Don't worry, though; we'll have plenty of other reading to satisfy us!

We're going to continue with what we've been studying over the past two days concerning our behavior personally and corporately within the body of Christ, but as we near the end of this first half of 1 Corinthians 6, we will study the stern warning that Paul gives this church as it pertains to their behavior and their future inheritance.

**Take a moment and review 1 Corinthians 6:7-8 and the verses written above.**

- Fill in the blanks.

"Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for \_\_\_\_\_ you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be \_\_\_\_\_? Instead, you yourselves are the ones

who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ even your fellow believers. (1 Corinthians 6:7-8)

or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or \_\_\_\_\_ people— \_\_\_\_\_ of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:10 NLT)

Not only is Paul pointing out that the Corinthians have entrusted judgment of their arguments to these “who do wrong,” but he is issuing the church a stern warning about their own similar behavior. This church, though founded under solid fundamentals and good teaching, had strayed off course so much that they were virtually indistinguishable from the unbelieving world around them. They were worldly and proud of it, setting themselves up in opposition to God and His ways.

**Please read Romans 1:28-32.**

- Why did God “abandon them to their foolish thinking?”
- What did their lives become full of (v. 29)?
- How do they commit these wicked acts? (Choose one.)

Unknowningly                      Innocently                      Willingly

We can choose to reject God, and He will allow us to do so, letting us pursue our own wicked desires. This is the way of the unredeemed, of those who will not inherit the Kingdom of God; but it was also the way that the Corinthian church was heading. Though they were saved by the grace of God by faith in His Son, their attitude was one of selfish pride.

In Week 1, we talked about this Corinthian pride in relation to the “foolishness” of the Cross. Pastor Dan has talked about Corinthian pride as a rejection of God’s standards; they thought they knew better! According to Romans 1:28-32, this is a dangerous place to be, and so Paul issues the church a warning. God won’t hold us captive to a relationship with Him. If we reject God’s ways, thinking Him foolish and ourselves wise, we are in danger of getting just what we ask for—abandonment to ourselves. The result is abounding wickedness and unrighteousness and being excluded from inheriting the Kingdom of heaven.

Now, I’m not saying that the Corinthians were in danger of losing their salvation. I don’t think Paul is necessarily saying that here, but his warning carries weight, making the case that this church—at the very least—was aligning itself with the wrong side. This is a place we should never go, but it’s also a place that each one of us *can* go if we’re not on our guard. The world around us is alluring, and we’ve already studied that our flesh is at war with the Spirit. Holiness is not easy! So we must remain humble in spirit and cling to God’s righteousness.

**Please read Romans 12:9-21.**

This, according to Paul, is what a true Christian looks like. These are examples of the outward manifestations of the fruit of God's Spirit within us. We read Galatians 5:22-23 on Day 5 of Week 2 and briefly talked about living in the power of the Holy Spirit as it pertained to gentleness. So let me be clear and say that no amount of human effort or striving can produce what Paul lists as characteristics of real Christ followers in this passage in Romans; we need Christ's Spirit within us to empower us to act this way! However, when we do have Christ's Spirit and access to His power, we make every effort to live according to His ways. These are real, actionable, and practical ways to live a life that bears the marks of Christ. This is a life that shines as light in darkness; this is how Paul was expecting to see the fledgling Corinthian church grow; and this is what each of us should be aiming for.

**Consider:** Read Romans 12:9-31 again, and be encouraged. When your heart is smitten with your God, and you have surrendered to His authority, He will work out your salvation in tangible ways.

**Pray:** Ask God to produce more evidence of His fruit in you. Thank Him that you don't have to do it on your own strength.

## **Day 5: Justified in the Name of Jesus**

*"Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

1 Corinthians 6:11 NLT

Let me start by saying that we have a fair bit of page turning to do today, but it's well worth the effort. We're going to pick up with some of what we studied on Day 1 concerning God's Final Judgment. I am so excited for us to see what God will show us.

I love that Paul does not end this section of 1 Corinthians 6 on a note of shame. How like God, when He convicts us, to then pick us up and remind us of our righteousness and beloved standing in Christ. The same is true here in this last verse.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:11 above and review the list of what some of the Corinthians (and we) once were from our verses yesterday.**

- Can you list any other characteristics that would describe what you once were?

We're not sticking around and considering our "once were" status for too long today. I want to concentrate on what God says we are and how that relates to His final plans for us.

**Please read Romans 8:30-39.** This is a pretty famous passage of scripture, and I know that there is more than one group at our church currently studying Romans. Please don't let familiarity dull what you read here. This is who we are in Christ, and we'll find that it has great implications for our future inheritance.

- According to verse 30, God has done four amazing things for those of us who belong to Him. List them.
  
- Because God has done this *for us*, who can accuse and condemn us?
  
- What could be interpreted as threats to the love we have from Christ?
  
- How does Paul describe us in regard to these "threats" (v. 37)?

Nothing on earth or in the heavenly realms can separate us from God's love in Christ. Absolutely nothing. And furthermore, concerning anything that would set itself up to look like a threat to our standing as beloved by Jesus, God says that we have "overwhelming victory through Christ." The ESV translates this as "...in all these things we are more than conquerors...."

**Now please look up the following verses in Revelation, and write down what Jesus says He will give to the one who is "victorious" (NLT, NIV), who "conquers" (ESV), or who "overcometh" (KJV).**

2:7–

2:11–

2:17–

2:26–

3:5–

3:12–

3:21–

Seven is typically understood to be the number of completeness in scripture. Hence, the letters to the seven churches can likely be understood to address the entire church of Christ. Each letter addresses a

church facing certain trials or threats. Some are commended; some are commended and rebuked; one is just rebuked and told to repent. But what is common to each is the promise of eternal reward if that church proves victorious over its trials.

I want to hone in on the promise in 3:21 for the remainder of our time today. The promise here is that of a seat with Christ on His throne, and it mirrors what we read in 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 on Day 1. Paul reminded the Corinthian church of who they were in Christ and what their future role with Him would be. They would judge the world and angels when Christ returned for the Day of Final Judgment.

In Revelation 3:21, look at the characteristics of the church to whom Jesus speaks. They were spiritually blind and naked, lukewarm in their feelings toward Him, and very self-satisfied. They had no need for Him! He tells them to repent and to purify themselves in Him. And to those who overcome and do as He commands, He promises a seat with Him on His throne.

**Now please read:**

Daniel 7:7 again

Luke 22:30

Revelation 4:2-4

Revelation 20:4

What do we see in each of these verses? We see God presiding over Judgment. We see that the Kingdom and authority belong to Christ; we see Him designate His twelve (Judas having later been replaced) as judges over the twelve tribes of Israel. And we see 24 thrones set up around God's throne, those elders seated on them having the authority to judge.

Now consider what was promised to the church in Revelation 3:21 and what Paul tells us our future responsibility will be in 1 Corinthians 6:2-3. Friends, from these verses—and most interpreters agree—we have a tiny glimpse of what awaits us at Judgment! The fate and future role of those who belong to Christ is not just being spared from the second death; it is also one of position, honor, and authority with Him.

One interesting thing I found in my study of this is that the crowns worn by those who sit on these thrones are not *diadems*, which are those worn by kings. Rather, the Greek used for these crowns is *stephanos*, which, according to HELPS Word Studies are “properly, a wreath (garland), awarded to a victor in the ancient athletic games (like the Greek Olympics); the crown of victory (versus 1238 /*diádēma*, “a royal crown”).” These crowns are distinctly different from those worn by royalty and represent one who wins or overcomes. These are the crowns Christ's church will be awarded based on what we do here on earth. These 24 elders represent the church—us—in all its honor and splendor, reigning and judging the world with Christ.

So what do we take from this (other than some amazement)? We take our cue from it. We take this to heart as a sure-fire promise from the King of kings. Our future is a beautiful one, full of dignity, strength, and authority, and as we hold that promise dearly close, down in the depths of our hearts, we let it dictate our behavior as we live life now. The Corinthian church let the standards of the world set the pace for their lives; they lived more like who they were before Christ than who they were and would be in Him. Let's learn

from this. Internalize the truth that you are God's children, chosen by the King of kings to reign with Him forever.

**Consider:** Do you often think of yourself this highly? It's outside the realm of comfort for most of us to consider ourselves as honored and authoritative. But God says we are. Since He is the all-powerful and only One from whom all honor and authority come, we can believe who He says we are, yet remain humble because of who He is. Let who you are and what you will someday partake in with Jesus rule over your thoughts and behavior in the present.

**Pray:** Thank God for the beautiful future He has planned for you. Thank Him that He not only saves but glorifies and honors His chosen.

Jennifer L. Skinner