



## 1 Corinthians 6:1-7-24\_The Need for a Gospel Motivation

Nov 3, 2013

Today is part review, part introduction to new passages, but mostly about adjusting our motives. ☺  
It is also a chance to read lots of scripture, as we love to do!

*“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (13) Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” (1Ti 4:12-13 ESV)*

### **Text: 1 Cor 6:1-7:24**

Now, by way of review and also a brief introduction, think about this. In just a few verses, the scriptures command some pretty serious life adjustments from believers:

1. Commanding unity and placing the church, in some manner, in the legal grievance process. This suggests much more authority and **civil** usefulness for the church than we are used to. (6:1-8)
2. Commanding **righteousness** in all behaviors. (6:9a)
3. Declaring that those who persist in unrighteousness will not inherit the Kingdom of God, and then listing some common sins so the message is clear! (6:9b-10)

*1Jn 2:3-6 ESV And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (5) but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: (6) whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

4. Commanding that born-again believers **LIVE** that way; **washed** and **sanctified** because we are justified in the name of Christ! (6:11)
5. Walking with *extreme wisdom* concerning what might be **lawful** but not **helpful**. This requires a biblically reflective lifestyle; one saturated with the Spirit *and* the Letter. (2 Cor 3:6; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
6. Framing bodily sexual inclinations in the light of Christ, not the flesh! (6:13) This is huge! Yes, even *that* has a Gospel motive!
7. Seeing one's body and indeed, one's whole life as a “member of Christ” and acting accordingly! (6:15-17) In other words, Christ and his sacrifice become reason enough to “never” join with any sort of harlotry!
8. A continual **fleeing** from sexual immorality; in thought, word, and deed, that God might be glorified in our bodies. (6:18-20, Matt 15:19)
9. Commending **singleness** as a gift from a sovereign Lord, with wonderful rights and opportunities to serve Christ! (7:1, 7-9, 32)
10. Commending marriage as a good “condition” in which to live, albeit with adjusted rights due to marital concerns. ☺ (7:2-5, 33-34, 9; Gen 2:18)
11. Some pretty serious divorce/separation regulations. (7:10-16)
12. A very strong call to **contentment**. (7:17-24)

WHEW! Why would a person do all that? And we aren't done!

**Saved by Grace, Christians are to live set apart, Spirit-filled lives of prayer, holiness, and ministry!** ☺

1. We are to live according to the moral Law...the 10 Commandments (Ex 20; Matt 5:18; Jn 14:15; Rom 13:8-10), putting to death “what is earthly in you.” (Col 3:5)

2. The Word of God is to be our standard for all of life. (2 Tim 3:16-17)
3. We are to pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5:17)
4. We are to set our affections on things above. Christ is our life! (Col 3:1-4)
5. We are to warn men of the coming **judgment** and the wrath to come, preach the Gospel, and make disciples! (Matt 28:18-20; Romans chapters 1 & 2; Gal 5:21; Matt 3:7)
6. We are not to love the world or worldliness! (1 Jn 2:15-17)
7. We are to love one another **deeply** and passionately (Jn 13:34-35; Rom 12:10), even loving our enemies! (Matt 5:44)
8. We are to love and serve the Lord's church! (Gal 6:10; Heb 10:24-25; 1 Cor 12)

**DOUBLE WHEW!** And there is more we don't have time for! So how do we do this?

- Friends, the need for us to again be motivated not by what is expedient or **fulfilling** but by the cross of Christ is paramount! To want his glory and honor because he suffered and bled is what should drive the Christian!
- The following are excerpts from the current book I've asked you to read, *Education Reformation* by public school teacher and street preacher, Ray Fournier. (EducationReformation.org)
- I understand some of you may lovingly disagree with the overall premise of the book, but chapter one is one of the best descriptions of a Gospel motivation for obedience and life I've ever read, and alone is worth the read. In addition, regardless of where you come down on the education issue, the book is a great primer on the outworking of the Gospel, apologetics, the role of the Law, debunking evolution, and a biblical worldview. Please read it without fear or condemnation! 😊

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**A Gospel Motivation**

*What would motivate you to reform your entire way of life in order to obey God in providing a Biblical education for your children? The motivation of fear? Because if you don't obey, God will punish you? The motivation of reward? Because if you do obey, God will reward you? Neither of these motivations accurately represent God's desire for us. God desires for us to choose to reform our entire way of life because of our love for Him. God desires for us to choose to reform our entire way of life to bring Him honor and glory.*

*But what would make us abandon our selfish desires, love Him more than ourselves, and want to live for His glory instead of our own? The answer is, His amazing, self-sacrificing love and undeserved kindness that He expressed for us on the cross. Remember, if you are His, it was His love and kindness that led you to repentance and faith in Him (Romans 2: 4). In the same way, by being reminded of the depths of His love for you, you will have more than enough motivation to deny yourself, pick up your cross, and live by His Word ... In order for us to do this, we need to focus on our primary motivation for every good work; the love of God expressed to us through the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

***"but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."***  
***(Romans 5: 8)***

***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."***  
***(John 3: 16 – 17)***

*This is the most commonly quoted passage about the gospel in America today, but most people have no idea what it means. Most unbelievers don't understand the spectacular nature of the good news of the gospel because they have never been told the bad news that they have sinned against a holy God and justly deserve an eternity in hell. Since they have no idea what they need to be saved from, they don't understand the true value of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and as a result, they don't understand the love of God. Without this understanding, the gospel's call to repent of their sins and have faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior is unintelligible.*

*Even most Christians don't realize just how much they have been forgiven. This has resulted in a lack of passion and love for God, and as a result, a lack of motivation to repent of worldly practices in order to live according to God's Word for His glory. This means that in order to truly understand the gospel, we must begin with the bad news.*

*Just like a jeweler uses black velvet as a background to maximize the brilliance of the diamonds that he showcases for his clients, the darkness of our sin and the wrath of God that we deserve for our crimes against our Creator make the love of God expressed on the cross shine before our eyes with an unimaginable brilliance. It is this love that leads us to love Jesus more than anything in the universe including more than our own lives and wage war on every sin that puts our Jesus on the cross. It is also this love for God that motivates us to disciple our children whom we love to the God whom we love. Our love for God as a result of the gospel is what gives us the passion and determination to glorify God in our educational decisions regardless of any of the inconveniences that an education reformation may bring.*

*Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe, came down from heaven to be born of a virgin, fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life and satisfied the righteous requirement of the law that you have broken, so that He could take your place on the cross as the perfect sacrifice. On that cross, the Creator died for His creation. On that cross, Jesus suffered the wrath of God that you deserve for your sins, satisfying the justice of God. On that cross, a legal transaction occurred. Your shameful sins were credited to His account and He paid for them in full with His life's blood. At the same time, His perfect righteousness was credited to you so that you could have peace with God. Then on the third day, God the Father raised Him from the dead (Acts 5: 30). On the third day, the Holy Spirit raised Him from the dead (Romans 8: 11). On the third day, He rose Himself from the dead (John 2: 19 – 21, 10: 17 – 18), defeating death and later ascended to Heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.*

*Please take a moment to think about the countless times you have broken God's Law including all of your secret sins that would overwhelm you with shame if they were exposed. Now think about the wrath of God that you deserve to suffer in hell for eternity. Realize that you are spiritually dead, incapable of saving yourself, and in your own strength without hope. This is the dark background that magnifies the love of God. The stark contrast between our total depravity, and God's mercy and grace that was expressed on the cross allows us to see the unimaginable brilliance of the love of God, just like the darkness of the night sky allows us to see the brilliance of the stars.*

*--Ray Fournier*

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**Friends, how motivated are you to obey God and conform your life to the loving commands of this magnificent God?**

- Too often we are motivated by how we feel or what's in it for us. This is *not* the attitude of the Christian!
- The Christian lives too overwhelmed by divine mercy to reject God's standards on the grounds of cultural norms or personal desires or convenience.
- Many "believing" persons and families are struggling because they cannot get past **THEMSELVES** long enough to see the CROSS OF CHRIST!

*Our motivations for obedience to all we are learning from the Word should be based in the love of God in Christ, as demonstrated by the Gospel! Therefore...*

1. We preach the Gospel!
2. Our views on holiness have a Gospel hit; the Cross is in it! ;)
3. Our marriages reflect the Gospel! Indeed, we see marriage THROUGH the Gospel!
4. Our singleness reflects the Gospel! Indeed, we see being single THROUGH the Gospel!
5. Our money is adjusted for Gospel reasons (Kingdom, Dominion Mandate).
6. We look at education through the Gospel!
7. Our worship is edified by the loving truth of the Gospel! How dare we sinners worship our Triune God? Because, by His grace, He saved us! Hallelujah!
8. Our lives then are built upon Christ and His word (Matt 7:24-27) and our motive for such is the cross of Christ!

Let me say this: if there are parts of your life you refuse to allow to be touched by the Gospel, please make sure the gospel you believed in is actually the Gospel! ☺

And if there are parts of your life that are suddenly being "grabbed" by some Gospel understanding and it's a bit scary, walk by faith and not by sight! God is right there to help, and we are too!

**Friends, through the lens of the Gospel, there is blessing and joy, consistency and contentment, healing and deliverance, love and obedience. There will also come suffering for righteousness, but be strong; Christ has overcome the world.**

Amen.