

Study Aids
Discussion Questions
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 125

Comment:

Dr. Franzmann has written: “The Christians of Corinth waited for the ‘revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Cor. 1:7), but they were tempted more than other churches to make themselves comfortable while they waited. They enjoyed security, and they had leisure to speculate about the implications of the Gospel, since they were not called upon to affirm the Gospel in action in the face of persecution. Such was the climate of the church life in Corinth.” Remember also that Paul is responding to a report given him by “Chloe’s people” (1 Cor. 1:11) on the status of the Corinthian church, and to a letter sent to Paul by leaders of the congregation asking very specific questions. These were people needing, and seeking, guidance on their daily living.

Questions:

Was Paul’s response on lawsuits meant to be limited to legal cases before a judge, or should it be seen in a broader sense and apply equally to less serious matters? How would you advise this group of people – and people living today – to deal with this matter? What does it mean to you to treat other people with brotherly love?

It has often been stated that we live in an age of unlimited sexual behavior. So does the advice of Paul when he says “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful” still apply today? Will such a message be heard? Accepted? Is the statement “your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit” relevant to our time and culture?

Paul’s advice concerning marriage was written at a time when people expected the return of Jesus to occur very soon, maybe tomorrow. So Paul walks a tight balance line when he instructs that marriage is good, but remaining single is even better. What do you think Paul is emphasizing here, and what do you think he is trying to keep in balance?