

LAWSUITS AMONG CHRISTIANS

I Corinthians 6:1-11

April 2, 2017

INTRODUCTION

- 1st Corinthians – Seeing Every Part of Life Through the Lens of the Gospel
- “Human wisdom had failed to correct sinful behavior in the local assembly”

Outline

1. Handling Disputes (1-6)
2. Facing Defeat (7-8)
3. Recognizing Deception (9-11)

I. HANDLING DISPUTES (1-6)

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! 4 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, 6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

v. 1 - When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?

Key Principle: Christians should not be taking their disagreements to secular courts. Christians should be able to settle their disputes within the local church.

Their main mistake: **they were viewing their disputes as legal rather than spiritual.**

V. 2 - Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

v. 3 - Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

4 - 5 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers,

- ESV rendering is a question – “no standing in the church?” = pagan judges.
- ASV rendering is a command – “appoint as judges even men of little account” = least competent Christian.
- Even a regular saint in the church should be able to help resolve the conflict between brothers
- v. 6 - but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

2. FACING DEFEAT (7-8)

7 To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

“Their hope is in a right verdict, rather than a righteous God.”

Sacrifice is the road to reconciliation and forgiveness.

Matthew 5:39-42

39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

How we handle disputes and conflict is a practical outworking of our faith in God.

3. RECOGNIZING DECEPTION (9-11)

- 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- **“In taking fellow-Christians to law they are no different from other wrongdoers who are outside the kingdom.”**
- V. 11 - “And such were some of you”
- But...you were washed – stain of sin removed.
- But...you were sanctified – set apart by God.
- But...you were justified – declared righteous
- 2 Timothy 2 :19 says – “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

