

RESOLVING CONFLICT GOD'S WAY (Part 1)

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Where do you get your framework for conflict resolution?

How do you decide what to do to someone who has wronged you?

THE CHURCH NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLE

- *"If any of you has a dispute against another, how dare you take it to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?" (1 Corinthians 6:1)*
- *"Don't you know that the saints will judge the world?" (vs. 2)*
- *"Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'" (Matthew 19:28)*
- *Jesus - "I bestow on you a kingdom, just as my Father bestowed one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Luke 22:29-30)*
- *"Then I saw thrones, and people seated on them who were given authority to judge." (Revelation 20:4a)*
- **It is the role of the Church to use God's word and the wisdom of His people to resolve conflicts among fellow believers.**

THE CHURCH NEEDS TO EMBRACE ITS RESPONSIBILITY

- *"Don't you know that we will judge angels—how much more matters of this life?" (1 Corinthians 6:3)*
- **Those outside the church who are non-believers in Christ cannot provide godly solutions to conflict and reconciliation.**
- *"So if you have such matters, do you appoint as your judges those who have no standing in the church?" (1 Corinthians 6:4)*
- *"I say this to your shame! Can it be that there is not one wise person among you who is able to arbitrate between fellow believers? 6 Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers!" (1 Corinthians 6:5-6)*
- **The world is watching and when we sue our fellow Christians in public court, we damage our own witness, we tarnish the reputation of God's Church, and we disobey Jesus' teachings on reconciliation.**

CHRISTIANS NEED TO CHOOSE LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF OTHER CHRISTIANS OVER PRIDE AND GREED

- *"As it is, to have legal disputes against one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?" (1 Corinthians 6:7)*

- No matter the outcome, even IF you win your case, you have already been defeated by suing your fellow believer in a public court.
- **"Better to lose money and possession than to lose a brother or lose your testimony." – Warren Wiersbe**
- *"Instead, you yourselves do wrong and cheat—and you do this to brothers and sisters!" (1 Corinthians 6:8)*
- **When we begin to love our money and possessions more than our fellow brothers and sister in Christ, more than obedience to Christ, and more than the reputation of Christ's Church we have lost our identity in Him.**

Truths:

1. **All families have conflicts. The Church family is no different.**
2. **If we are truly in Christ, born again believers, we should value relationships over being right or even winning "a case."**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- What was the primary problem in the first 8 verses of chapter 6?
- How did Paul say that Christians should handle disputes/conflict?
- Why did Paul reference that Christians will judge the angels?

Understanding:

- What is the difference between criminal matters and civil matters and how the Church (Christians) should handle them?
- Why should Christians not seek secular wisdom or intervention when we have conflict with one another in the church?
- How does suing our fellow Christians impact the way the non-believing world views us, the church, and God?
- Why do you think the church at Corinth, and so many Christians today were/are willing to sue their fellow believers?
- In what ways does this teaching challenge you in how you handle situations when you've been wronged by another Christian?
- How can your Connect Group and the Church leaders help resolve conflict in the church to avoid lawsuits among believers?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?