



## 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11

### Community Group Study Guide Week of May 26, 2019

This week, we looked at 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 where the Apostle Paul writes to address another problem that had arisen in this young church. Two weeks ago we saw that the Corinthians had a major lack of unity under the truth of the Gospel. Last week, we saw they also had a major lack of purity in their obedience to Christ. They were failing to unite to the truth, and instead divided by the trivial. They were tolerating the sin that they should have been fighting, and tragically, too quick to fight over things that really didn't matter. This week, we saw that their disputes with one another were so bad that some members had started filing lawsuits against others and were dragging one another to court. Paul rebukes them, and says that to have these disputes and lawsuits is a sign of their defeat!

Behind this embarrassing situation is a normal human desire that had gone off the rails. We all have a desire to be treated fairly, and we all long for justice. Justice is a good thing. God is a just God! We should seek justice and act justly, but we should do so in a way that is distinctly Christian. Paul does not forbid the Corinthians from using human courts in criminal cases or to seek justice in their disputes with non-Christians. He does however forbid them from going to "the unrighteous" to settle person disputes between Christians who are members in the Church. The only way to properly understand and judge a dispute between Christians is to properly understand the Gospel and the spiritual reality of what's really at stake. The priority of a courtroom is to uphold fairness. But in bringing these cases to the church, the goal is not merely fairness, but family and the witness of that family to the watching world. The goal is to not only right the wrongs, but also the hearts of everyone involved. Through this the church bears witness that the Gospel has the power to change lives and reconcile enemies. This witness is destroyed, however, when Christians live unchanged lives of unrepentant sin, or constantly fight over trivial matters.

The Corinthians were a young church filled with baby Christians, but the Apostle Paul is eager for them to grow up. By this point, they should have been feeding themselves, and learning to feed others, but they were still "infants in Christ." Their failure in maturity was caused by a failure to understand their identity, and was resulting in a failure of their witness. The solution was to first check their hearts to make sure they were truly saved and born again. Paul warns them, "do not be deceived, the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom." If they'd truly been born again, then they needed to remember their new identity in Christ. Paul calls them "brothers," he calls them "saints," and here in chapter 6 he tells them that as Christians we will even "judge the world" and "angels." It is a mysterious and glorious vision of who Jesus has called us to be, but if that is who we are, then we need to start practicing it right now. If the church is to judge the angels, then we should easily have the wisdom to judge trivial disputes among Christians. If we are to rule and reign with our just and merciful God, then we should be a people who flee temptation and are quick to repent of sin, but also patient with one another and quick to forgive.

### DISCUSSION GOALS

#### Head

To understand the goal of Christian discipline in handling disputes between Christians.

#### Heart

To trust that God is just and his way of handling disputes is best.

#### Hands

To repent of sin, to forgive others, and to work out our salvation so that we continually grow in Christian maturity.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Membership or Baptism:

Contact  
[admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

#### Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact  
[andy@mosaicboston.com](mailto:andy@mosaicboston.com).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

- What stood out to you about the text of the sermon this week? Did you learn anything new, or find anything encouraging, challenging, or convicting?
- In 1 Cor 3:1-3, Paul called the Corinthians “infants in Christ.” Pastor Shane talked about the different developmental stages in the life of a Christian (concept/birth, infancy, childhood/adolescence, parent/grandparent). What might be some of the things that cause a Christian to get stuck in one of these stages? How do we “grow up” into the next stages of maturity?
- Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are saints and will one day judge the angels. How might this reminder about their identity help them with the current problem they’re facing over lawsuits in the church?
- **Read Matthew 7:21-27 and 1 Cor 6:9-11.** Like Jesus, Paul warns the Corinthians about being deceived over their true identity. Some of them were failing to remember their true identity as Saints, others may have been deceived into thinking they were Christians when they really were not. How can we assess our hearts to tell the difference? How should we respond to what these assessments reveal?
- Paul has a warning for both the plaintiffs and the defendants of these trivial cases. What can we learn from how he addresses both parties involved in these disputes?
- How should the Gospel shape the way we pursue both justice and mercy in our disputes with others? Why is it usually hard to find the right balance?
- Paul has a very specific list of sins here, and likely has specific people in mind. At the end of his list he writes, “and such were some of you, but...” Paul’s words to them are very sobering, but why should they also be very encouraging?
- Why is the manner in which we handle our disputes as Christians such a vital part of our witness to the world? How can we display the power of the Gospel in the way we relate to one another through our grievances with one another?