



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sermon Series:** Welcome to Corinth, Part 7

**Sermon Title:** Avoid Courtroom Drama

**Speaker/ Date:** Segun Aiyegbusi / October 28, 2018

### 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-8

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6 how Christ followers are to resolve conflict with one another.

Big idea: **CONFLICT WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE CHURCH**

Paul is not talking about a crime that has been committed; rather, he is speaking here about disputable issues, personal trivial matters or minor sins among Christians. The Biblical counsel here is to bring in a godly Christian that you both respect to help mediate the matter. But- if a law has been broken, don't call your small group coordinator and don't call pastor Armin- call the authorities. **Romans 13:1**

From this passage we'll see 3 REASONS why such conflicts among Christians must be resolved within the

Conflict with other Christians should be resolved within the Church

1. **BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE DESTINED TO BE AND WHAT WE ARE DESTINED TO DO.**

Paul clues the Corinthians and us into some future realities about the eternal destiny of every follower of Jesus. **1 Corinthians 6:2-3**

This reference to Christians someday judging the world should bring to mind passages like **Daniel 7:22** and **Revelation 3:21** where it tells us that one day – in eternity - Christians will participate with Jesus in the final judgment of fallen angels. It's in light of that day that Paul makes the case: *If you are one day going to have the mind of Christ and sit in God's supreme and judge the world and judge spiritual beings in the angelic realm, aren't you qualified to judge the everyday matters that come up among you now?*

Conflict with other Christians should be resolved within the Church

## **2. BECAUSE THE WHOLE CHURCH LOSES WHEN CHRISTIANS FIGHT ONE ANOTHER IN COURT.**

### **1 Corinthians 6:4-6**

When Christians take fellow Christians to court, you may win your case, but you've already lost spiritually before the case is even heard! We claim that the Spirit of the Living God lives in us- but when we show up in a courtroom accusing one another, that's a bad witness for the **WHOLE CHURCH!**

Resolve your conflict with other Christians **WITHIN** the Church in a respectable and honorable manner that glorifies the name of Jesus! .

Conflict with other Christians should be resolved within the Church

## **3. BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN THE CHURCH SPIRIT-FILLED HUMAN RESOURCES.**

### **1 Corinthians 6:5**

When you and another Christian are in a conflict and cannot reconcile, find a third party you both know and respect who will act as an arbitrator.

Conflict with other Christians should be resolved within the Church

## **4. BECAUSE IT PROVIDES US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO GLORIFY GOD.**

Conflicts in our relationships with other believers are an opportunity to demonstrate to God, the Church, and to the observing unbelieving world how the grace of God and the power of His Spirit can completely transform a life and turn it around.

Four questions (from the book, "PEACEMAKER" by Ken Sande) we must always ask ourselves at the onset of a disagreement with other believers:

**QUESTION 1: "How can I please God and honor God, even in this ugly situation?"**

Glorifying God means I need to take a breath, step back; and like the Psalmist, humbly pray **Psalm 19:14**

**QUESTION 2: "How can I show Jesus' work in my life by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?"**

Rather than justify your actions or excuse them, Jesus says you are to put your worship on pause, then go quickly, honestly, and directly to the person and own up to your role in the conflict. **Matthew 5:23-24**

**QUESTION 3: “How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?”**

Matthew, Jesus instructs us to engage the person who offended us directly, one-on-one (**Matthew 18:15**). We are to go with a gentle attitude, not in attack-mode lest we ourselves fall into sin (**Galatians 6:1-2**).

**QUESTION 4: “Is this an offense that I need simply need to choose to overlook?”**

There will be some conflicts you will have with other Christians where you simply just need to overlook the offense. Not every battle is worth fighting; **1 Corinthians 6:7, 2 Corinthians 5:21**

**Discussion Questions:**

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Have you ever been involved in an ugly conflict with another believer that you now regret? How would you handle it differently today? Were there any non-believers who witnessed this conflict?
- What would be the next step if a Christian owes you money and is unwilling to pay it back, even after mediation by another Christian?
- Would it be easier to take a believer from a different local church to court over someone in your own church- or do you view all believers the same no matter what church body they attend?
- Have you ever witnessed other believers handle conflict in a biblical way and glorify God through their conflict? Explain.
- What is it about this biblical process that makes it easy to follow? What makes it difficult to follow?
- Is there anyone in your life that you had an ugly conflict with that you need to go seek forgiveness from? If something is holding you back from doing that- what is it?