

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

## "THE WRONG WAY TO RIGHT WRONGS" | 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 1-11 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

***What was it like the last time you visited a courthouse?***

### ***"Saint Litigation" (1 Cor 6: 1-6)***

The Corinthian Church had members taking each other to court over small matters which showed a lack of trust and inability to solve disputes on their own. **What are other ways Christians fail to trust each other? What are steps to solve disputes biblically?**

### ***"Losing is Better Sometimes" (1 Cor 6: 7-8)***

Paul says it would be better for people to suffer wrong than to publicly shame another Christian in court. **What is hard about this lesson? How can insisting on winning in court damage someone's witness?**

### ***"Forgive Debts Because Your Debt Was Too" (1 Cor 6: 9-11)***

The people are reminded that they were all guilty of many different things, so they should be willing to forgive wrongs too. **What are reasons it is hard for people to forgive?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

Paul is challenging believers to handle their conflicts differently than the world to show they world they are guided by the Holy Spirit and are humble. **How would you describe the way you handle conflict? How can your identity in Jesus better guide your life when it comes to conflict? Pray and ask God to give you the humility and perspective you need for conflicts this week.**

## The Wrong Way To Right Wrongs

### I. Announce:

- A. **Slide1 Sunday Night Prayer:** Come join us tonight as we pray for our community around us and for each other. We will be meeting in the Agape Room from 6:30-7:30pm, hope you can join us.
- B. **Slide2 Mercy Projects:** This morning we have the opportunity to support the work *Mercy Projects* is doing in Ukraine and do some Christmas shopping. Jeff and Paula Thompson have tables set up out front where you can purchase *nesting dolls* to support children and families in Ukraine. I also have a QR code behind me that will take you to an online store.
- C. **Slide3 Tacos for Toys:** *Jimmy and Tiffany's Tacos* are selling taco plates today after each service. All proceeds will go to CFLC to buy toys for their toy drive. Come on out and fellowship as well as support foster kids in our community.
- D. **Slide4 Prayer:**

### II. Slide5 Intro: The Wrong Way To Right Wrongs

- A. **Big Idea:** Christians should handle *disputes* in line with their **identity** as the people of God.
- Not only were the Corinthian believers **compromising with the world**(ch5), but they were also **losing their testimony before the world** by taking each other to court **before unbelieving judges** (ch.6).
- B. When Paul teaches **Christian doctrine**, it is **not** isolated from **Christian practice**, but directly linked to **practical matters**. [where orthodoxy meets **orthopraxy** - straight doctrine/action]
- The Christian's **responsibilities** take priority over his **rights**.
- C. You might think that it's **unusual** to have a dispute with another Christian. **But** I see it **the other way**. If you're **not** getting in even minor **disagreements and disputes**, then maybe you're **not close enough to anyone at church?** **Or not being real enough?** **Or ever give your honest opinion?** (I'm always in trouble for something I said or did).

### III. Slide6 SAINT LITIGATION (1-11) READ 1-8

- A. We are *Saint Litigation*, or *The Patron Saint of Lawsuits*, or at least *The Saint of Mediation*. [we as saints are to litigate/mediate ... some matters]
- B. Slide7 note: 7 questions in this 1st section. *Do you not know that ...?*
- C. Background: William Barclay tell in his commentary, “(The Greeks) were characteristically a litigious people. The law courts were one of their chief entertainment’s ... In a Greek city, every man was more or less a lawyer, and spent a very great part of his time either **deciding** or **listening to law cases**.”
- D. **Our courts** are very busy today in **America**. Some Interesting Data on Lawsuits:
1. **The US** holds the top spot for the **largest number of lawsuits**.
  2. There are **40 million lawsuits filed** in the **U.S. every year**.
  3. There are currently **1.3 million lawyers** in the U.S.
  4. **Florida** had the busiest state courts.
  5. The largest settlement based on lawsuit statistics in the history of the US was worth **\$206 billion**. [The Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement]
- E. Slide8 Paul is *not attacking* secular courts, nor is he antigovernment, nor is he against the public court system itself, but against settling disputes, *between believers, before unbelievers*.
- F. Slide9a WHAT TYPES OF LAWSUITS?
- G. Seems to point to *the smallest matters, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?* (2). *Matters pertaining to this life?* (3).
- H. **Grievance** (1) - refers to a dispute that leads to a trial in court.
1. The context is more comparable to **civil litigation rather than a criminal case**. These disputes likely refer to lawsuits brought against another person that deal with **financial loss**. FSB - Faith Study Bible notes, 1 Cor.6:1.
- I. Slide9b SAINTS QUALIFICATIONS? We were born (again) to judge.

- J. We will judge **the world** (2) – It talks about us *ruling and reigning* with Jesus during the millennium. [prob **Jesus judging and we are all the Jury**]
1. John in the Revelation, *And we shall reign on the earth*. Paul to Timothy, *If we endure, We shall also reign with Him*.
- K. We will judge **angels** [i.e. Fallen one's] (3) - 2 Pet.2:4 *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment*.
1. So Paul's logic here is simply, if God trusts us to judge the world & judge angels tomorrow, can't He help us in deciding our petty decisions today?
- L. Saints, you don't have to be legal experts to resolve most disputes: *Know your Position in Christ. Know Biblical Principles. Know how to Apply them*.
- M. **Slide9c STEPS TO BIBLICAL RESOLVE**
- N. When 2 believers can't reach an agreement together:
1. **Follow Mt.18** - Handle it quietly (keep the circle small) and biblically.
  2. **Mediate** - Invite some spiritual believer's to meet & help decide the matter
  3. **Accept wrong** - let yourselves be **defrauded/cheated**. (But they are liars/ deceitful. I know. lit. *to be or become deprived of something by deceit*)
    - a) **Tough teaching to apply!** Is this really what Jesus meant in Mt.5:38-40?
    - b) You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also*.
  4. **As a Christian it's all about WINNING AND LOSING!**
    - a) When to win and when to lose. Our *responsibilities* come before our rights. It's leaving it to *the Court of Final Appeal*.
    - b) Better a Christian loose **money** rather than his **Testimony** and bring shame to Christ's name. **Whats the main point? Your witness, over winning!**

O. Slide9d WHEN ARE LAWSUITS PERMISSIBLE?

1. When one party is not Christian. (of course a believer should still allow biblical values to direct their every decision).
2. When one party doesn't act like a Christian. (eg. If they won't allow the church to handle their matter). [*possible, treat them like an unbeliever*]

P. Slide10 LAST ARGUMENT, SAME CONTEXT. READ 9-11

Q. Big Idea: Christians should handle *disputes* - in line with their **identity** as the people of God.

1. So far 2 of his reasons were: we can handle these because God will use us to judge **the world and the fallen angels**. Now #3, Since God has forgiven you *pretty horrible* sins and lifestyles ... Can't you forgive one another of a few lesser sins?

R. Slide11a Note, this is a list of those *practicing* these sins:

1. **sexual immoral** (usually sins of the not married), **idolaters** (place anything else before God in their life), **adulterers** (sins of the married), **men who practice homosexuality** (phrase in Gk refer to, *the passive and active partners in consensual homosexual acts*), **thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers** (slanderers), **swindlers** ... *will inherit the kingdom of God*. Slide11b  
a) Gal.5:21 *those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God*.<sup>1</sup>
2. Eugene Peterson said it this way, *Unjust people who don't care about God will not be joining in his kingdom. Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don't qualify as citizens in God's kingdom.*

S. Slide12a (11) and such were some of you - pre-salvation we also were *riddled w/ vice* (pause, and remember), **but** ... in **Jesus** we were *washed, sanctified & justified*.

1. **Washed** - to be or become forgiven, conceived of as having one's sins washed away. [you've been *completely washed* so, *let it go saints!*]

---

<sup>1</sup> NKJV

2. **Justified / Sanctified** - If you had a son that you forbid, *“Do not go in that room there is a **deadly communicable airborne disease** inside.”*

a) **But** he decides to be disobedient & go in against your command and is seized with the infection. **2 things happen**: he has *transgressed* your command **AND** he is also *now diseased*. You can **forgive** him, **but** that does not **heal** him. He needs both the father’s pardon & the physician's aid! (**justification/pardons** & **sanctification/heals**)

T. **Slide12b Saints** we are a new **people**, w/a new **moral code**, a new **mind set**, a new **world view**, a new **family**, a new **inheritance**, **and** we’re under new **authority** **and** have new **authority**.

U. *“If we **are not** what we once **were**, **why** should we **live** as we **once lived**?”* (Wiersbe)

V. **Communion**: we sang, *Dead man walking slave to sin. I wanna know about being born again. I need You. Oh God I need You.* (Cry out to God this morning if you don’t have a relationship with Him). **Believers**, **and** **such** were some of **you!** **BUT!** (nlt) *you were **cleansed**; you were **made holy**; you were **made right** with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

1. *Let a person **examine himself** then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.* (1 Cor.11:28)

W. *This is **My body**, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of **Me**.*

X. *In the same way, he took **the cup** of wine after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant **between God and his people** - an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of **Me** as often as you drink it.*

Y. **Last song**: *I run to the Father. I fall into grace. I’m done with the hiding. No reason to wait. My heart needs (found) a surgeon. My soul needs (found) a friend. So I’ll run to the Father. Again and again. And again and again.*

Z. **Next Week**: *Sex and Sandwiches*. Important message on how God views **our bodies**, **And** how to deal with **the gray areas** of our lives.

AA. Keywords: justified, sanctified, identity.