

Christians in Conflict

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

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Introduction: Last week, 1 Corinthians 5 taught us how we are to deal with sin. We are to mourn it (5:1-2), judge it (5:3-5), and purge it (5:6-13). But how about when things aren't so black and white, where there are disagreements between Christians?

Aim: Learn to glorify God in every circumstance with my whole being.

Lawsuits among Believers: Christians are to resolve disputes in-house.

1 Do you dare take disputes with one another to the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?

2-5 You will judge the world/angels! Isn't there anyone among you wise enough to judge disputes between believers?

6-8 When brothers drag brothers into court before unbelievers, you are already defeated. Why not rather be wronged?

9-11 The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. But you were washed/sanctified/justified in Jesus by the Spirit.

- Disputes among believers are expected. What problems do I create when I pretend otherwise? How am I to deal with a dispute? (Mt 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:31-32; Col 3:13-14)
- I thought that I was not to judge? (Matthew 7:1) What is the difference between being judgmental and dispensing justice?

- When have I dragged God's name through the mud by publicly demeaning a brother, or pushed a personal dispute into the court of public opinion?
- Why not rather be wronged? What wrong am I not willing to trust God to make right? Why am I so eager for justice for others, yet demand mercy for myself?
- Only the devil wins when Christians sue each other. How do I define victory? (v7) What would I not give up to keep a brother? (Matthew 5:39-42)
- Covetousness can send a person to hell just as easily as can adultery. (v10) Why am I so quick to condemn sins of the flesh and gloss over the sins of the spirit?
- How have you experienced conflict as a result of your salvation? Identify something in your life that you never had a problem with previously, but is now causing conflict as you grow in Christ?
- How has conflict been a result of you taking a stand for your biblical conviction?

Conclusion: "But you were washed/sanctified/justified" ...(v11) - all past tense, a completed transaction. I am a new creation (2Corinthians 5:17), obligated by God's grace to live a new life; to glorify Him in everything - including disputes and everything I do with my body.