

Message #21

I Corinthians 6:1-8

God certainly does not want His people hanging their dirty, legal laundry out in front of a lost world.

Apparently some believers in the church were taking other believers in the church to court. There can be no doubt that there were some real bizarre characters in the Corinthian church. There were some who were covetous, some who were drunks, some who were revilers and even some who were swindlers (i.e. 5:11; 6:10-11).

IT IS A SHAMEFUL AND UNRIGHTEOUS THING FOR ONE BELIEVER TO TAKE ANOTHER BELIEVER TO COURT BEFORE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOST.

Any believer who takes another believer into court shows a great spiritual deficiency and shows he is out of step with God's Word and will.

POINT #1 – Any believer who would take another believer into court has an unrighteous courage. **6:1**

The word “dare” is one that speaks of having courage to do something. The word “case” is one that refers to a legal case or lawsuit, and the word “law” is one that refers to appealing something in a court of law.

The unrighteous boldness of the carnal Corinthians is seen in that they dared to go to the unsaved world and not before the saints with their legal differences with another brother.

The church of God is to be a major center of life existence for God's people. It is to be a place that gives counsel and direction on all sorts of issues in life. Isn't it tragic that when it comes time to making major decisions in life, sometimes Christians will go first and seek counsel from the lost world.

Those bold enough to sue a brother in court have an unrighteous courage that hurts the name of Jesus Christ and the family of God.

POINT #2 – Any believer who would take another believer into court has a Biblical ignorance. **6:2-6**

This point would really sting the Corinthians because they were so proud of their knowledge and Paul, in this text, is blasting them for their ignorance.

Thought #1 - Believers will judge the world. **6:2**

That word “judge” speaks of a legal setting in which believers are pronouncing judicial decisions upon those who are lost. In the future, the Christ-rejecting world is going to be judged by the Christ-accepting world.

The judgment that is monumental is the eternal judgment and if we are going to share in that judgment, shouldn't we be able to judge small, legal, temporal matters?

This passage clearly teaches that God wants and expects believers to be able to think and make judgments. He does not want His people to be mental or spiritual invalids. He wants us learning, growing and thinking.

Thought #2 - Believers will judge angels. 6:3

Believers are going to share in the judgment of angels, especially those who are wicked (i.e. II Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Now to our knowledge we have never even seen an angel. We know that they exist because of the Bible. We can see the effect of their existence, but we cannot see them. Apparently in eternity we will be allowed to see everything these angels were involved in and we will be able to judge them. Paul's point is if someday we will judge the angels that we cannot presently see shouldn't we be able to judge things we can presently see?

Thought #3 - Unbelievers should not judge believers. 6:4

The "of no account" group in this verse refers to unbelievers. Paul's point to the Corinthians is that they were allowing those "of no account" in the church, those lost, to judge the most esteemed in the church, those saved. The most important people in God's church are not those who are lost, but those who are saved.

Before ANY legal action, it is right to consult people who are spiritual and wise in their relationship and knowledge of God.

Thought #4 - Believers should judge other believers. 6:5-6

When Paul says, "I say this to your shame," he is saying it is humiliating that there isn't even ONE person in the church who is able to make right judgments when Christian brothers differ. When a Christian goes into a court of law with another Christian before non-Christians, it is a shameful, humiliating disgrace in the sight of God.

POINT #3 – Any believer who would take another believer into court has a spiritual defect.
6:7-8

The word "defect" is one that speaks of a spiritual defect and deficiency. The word "wronged" speaks of something not just or righteous. The one who will continually go to the unsaved world for answers is one who is spiritually defective and deficient in God's sight.

Every believer ALWAYS has the option of enduring hardships for the cause of Jesus Christ and not taking the brother into court.

- 1) It is not always wrong to appeal to a secular court of law. Paul seemed to threaten this point to the centurion when he was mistreated in Jerusalem (Acts 22:25-29). Paul specifically appealed to the highest court of all in Rome while imprisoned in Caesarea (Acts 25:1-12).
- 2) God does ordain government to judge in legal matters. Rom. 13:1-4
- 3) In any situation, the name of Jesus Christ is at stake and just always be protected.
- 4) It is a very serious matter, in God's sight, to go to court with another believer.
- 5) Never should a believer go to court out of a motive of revenge or gain.

Believers should be willing to endure wrongs. Why? Because of what the Son of God did for you and me. He was willing to endure the ultimate wrongs on our behalf in order to take our sin to Calvary.