

## **The Courthouse of Sin City (1 Corinthians 6:1-8)**

### **I. Introduction**

- A. The Supreme Court: 230 years of righteous and unrighteous judgments
- B. The overall context: A concern for unity in the church
- C. Outline of sermon and reading the text

### **II. A Call for the Church to Settle their Own Disputes (v. 1-6)**

- A. verse 1 (How dare you go to court?)
  - 1. Why was going to court such a scandal?
  - 2. going to law: what is it like in the law courts of sin city
  - 3. the *unrighteous* judges of sin city vs. the saints
- B. verse 2-3 (*Do you not know ...?*)
  - 1. the saints will judge the world
    - a. Daniel 7:21-22
    - b. Matthew 19:28
    - c. Revelation 2:26-27
  - 2. How much more are we qualified to judge a civil dispute?
  - 3. The saints will even judge angels!
  - 4. What are the *ordinary things of life* in comparison to that?
- C. verse 4-5 (Shame on you!)
  - 1. An ironic question
  - 2. Is there no one smart enough in your midst?
- D. verse 6
  - 1. The real travesty: *brother against brother!*
    - a. we are not to air out our family business before the world

### **III. A Call for the Church to be Willing to Suffer Wrong (v. 7-8)**

- A. *Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?*
  - 1. This is life in the New Covenant kingdom (Matt 5:38-42)
  - 2. What would you do if you were wronged?
- B. They actually *were* defrauding one another!

### **IV. Application**

- A. What the text does *not* teach
  - 1. Is it wrong to go to court at all against anyone at all?
    - a. When is legal action appropriate for a Christian?
  - 2. This text does not apply to criminal cases
- B. Practical questions answered by the text
  - 1. Under no circumstances should two people in our church be involved in litigation against one another
    - a. The church needs to be ready to deal justly with such matters
  - 2. No two Christians in general should go to secular courts
  - 3. What if one of the Christian plaintiffs is not part of a church?
  - 4. What do you do if a professing Christian sues you?

### **V. Conclusion: A Call to the Church to Be the Body of Christ**

- A. The example of Paul (1 Corinthians 9:1-15)
- B. The example of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8)