

“The Christian’s Court!”
1 Corinthians 6:1-8

Introduction:

1. There Was A TV Show That I Watched When I Was Younger:
 - At The End Of Each Episode - We Were Told This:
 - “Don't Take The Law Into Your Own Hands – You Take Them To Court!”
 - The Show: “The People’s Court!”
 - A Show About Disputes / About The Law / Mostly About The Judge!
 - Back Then: Judge Wapner!
 - Today - Many Other Judges & Shows Have Taken His Place:
 - Most Popular: Judge Judy!
 - These So-Called Courts:
 - Aren’t Really There To Resolve Disputes!
 - No - They Are For Entertainment!
 - And For Gain & Even Greed!
 2. These Shows Reflect What Is Going On In Society As Well!
 - Today In America:
 - There Are Over 1 Million Lawyers!
 - There Are Over 16 Million Lawsuits Each Year!
 - Not Criminal Cases / But Civil Cases – Small Claim & Large Claim!
 - And Over \$40 Billion Awarded Based On Those Lawsuits!
 - And Just Like The TV Shows:
 - Many Aren’t Really To Resolve Disputes!
 - No - Many Are For Entertainment!
 - And For Gain & Even Greed!
 3. As We Will See This Morning:
 - What Is True In America Today:
 - Was Also True In The City Of Corinth 2,000 Years Ago!
 - This Problem Also Infected The Church!
 - Already Seen Several Problems / Issues In 1 Corinthians:
 - Division In The Church!
 - Acceptance Of Immorality In The Church!
 - Now - Chapter 6 - Lawsuits Between Christians!
 4. Let’s See What God Has To Say About This Issue Through The Apostle Paul!
 - Read 6:1-8!
 - Very Clear What These Verses Teach Us About Christians Suing Other Christians! About Christians Taking Other Christians To Court!
 - With Disputes & Disagreements!
 - It Is Clearly Wrong! And It Is Clearly A Sin!
 - It Is A Sin For A Christian To Sue Another Christian In A Court Of Law!
 - This Is A Very Practical Issue For Us This Morning!
 - But It Is Based On Some Very Important Principles!
- 1. *There Is No Reason For Legal Disputes Between Christians!***
- 6:1 - “Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?”
 - There Is No Reason!
 - There Is No Reason: Unless You Are Filled With Pride!
 - “Dare Any Of You?” – “How Dare You!”
 - Pride Was The Deep-Rooted Sin In This Church - And It Came Out In Many Ways!
 - Including How They Resolved Disputes!
 - They Even “Dared” To Sue Other Christians!
 - Really - They Had No Reason!
 - There Is No Reason: Unless You Are Focused On Problems!

- “Having A Matter Against Another!”
- Instead Of Focusing On:
 - Love - God’s / Yours!
 - Forgiveness - God’s / Yours!
 - Kindness / Longsuffering / Service / Etc!
- Focused On Problems With Each Other!
 - Disputes / Disagreements!
 - Small Or Large! Immaterial Or Material!
- Gill - “Any Difference Among Them About Their Worldly Concerns!”
 - Really - There Is No Reason!
- There Is No Reason: Unless You Have Faith In Proceedings!
 - Like When You: “Go To Law Before The Unjust, And Not Before The Saints!”
 - But This *Is* The Problem!
 - Instead Of Christians Dealing With These Problems Within The Church - They Have More Faith In The Decision Of A Non-Believing Judge Than A Spirit-Filled Christian!
- But Really – There Is No Reason For Legal Disputes Between Christians!
 - Not Talking About Criminal Matters Here!
 - If A Crime Has Been Committed - God Has Provided Courts For This Purpose!
 - For Protection / Prosecution / Punishment!
 - Not Talking About Procedural Matters Here!
 - There Are Legal Matters That Have Nothing To Do With A Dispute!
 - But - When It Comes To Civil Disputes Between Christians:
 - There Is No Reason To Go To Court!

2. *It Is Ridiculous To Have Legal Disputes Between Christians!*

- 6:2-3 - “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? / Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”
 - Paul Asks 2 Times: “Don’t You Know?”
 - And If You Didn’t Know - You Do Now!
 - When You Really Think About These Truths:
 - It Will Seem Petty / Silly To Handle Disputes Between Christians In Court!
 - The Authority Of The Church Is Much Greater Than The Authority Of Any Judge / Any Jury / Any Court!
 - Don’t You Know This?
- Don’t You Know – About Your Purpose Of Authority?
 - 6:2 - “Do Ye Not Know That The Saints Shall Judge The World?”
 - Why Do You Take Your Problems With Other Christians To Court & A Judge In This World?
 - Since Someday You Will Judge The World?
 - A Peek Into What We Will Be Doing During The Kingdom Of Jesus! Revelation 20:4 - “Living & Reigning With Christ For A Thousand Years!”
 - Christians Will Be Discerning / Deciding Matters In The Future!
 - So - “If / Since The World Shall Be Judged By You, Are Ye Unworthy To Judge The Smallest Matters?”
 - Of Course Not - You Are Worthy! Able!
 - Remember: “We Have The Mind Of Christ!” (2:16)
 - “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (3:16)
 - To Settle Your Disputes In A Court Of Law Is Ridiculous!
- Don’t You Know – About Your Position Of Authority?
 - 6:3 - “Know Ye Not That We Shall Judge Angels?”
 - Why Do You Take Your Problems With Other Christians To Court & A Judge In This World?
 - Since Someday You Will Have More Authority Than Even The Angels In Heaven!
 - And If You Will Be Handling Important Matters In Heaven:
 - Can’t You Handle Smaller Things On Earth?

- It Is Ridiculous To Have Legal Disputes Between Christians!
 - Because Of The Authority Given To You By God!
 - Also - Because Of The Issues You Are Dealing With:
 - 6:2 - “Are Ye Unworthy To Judge The Smallest Matters?”
 - In Truth - Any Matter / Any Issue / Any Dispute Is A “Small” Matter When It Is Between Two Christians!

3. *There Is Another Resolution Than Legal Disputes Between Christians!*

- 6:4 - “If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church!”
 - If It Is Sin For A Christian To Sue Another Christian In A Court Of Law:
 - Then How Can We Deal With Disputes / Disagreements When They Arise? All Human / All Sinners! Here’s How:
 - The Matter To Be Resolved:
 - “If Then Ye Have Judgments Of Things Pertaining To This Life!”
 - Dealing With Inter-Personal Disputes Between Christians!
 - Sin Is Still Involved To Some Extent!
 - Like Pride!
 - But The Matter That Needs To Be Resolved Is Temporal!
 - Something That Relates To This Life!
 - **IE:** If You Hire A Christian Person / Company Owned By A Christian To Replace Your Roof Or Fix Your Car / Etc - And A Dispute Takes Place! Or Someone Borrowed Money & Won’t Pay It Back!
 - The Method Of Being Resolved:
 - “Set Them To Judge Who Are Least Esteemed In The Church!”
 - The Church Needs To Appoint Another Christian To “Judge” & Deliberate & Decide The Issue!
 - This Is A Difficult Verse To Translate & Explain:
 - But I Believe The Translators Of The KJV Explain It The Best!
 - To Make A Strong Point – Because Of Their Pride:
 - Paul Tells Them To Even Appoint The “Least Esteemed In The Church!”
 - Even Someone You Might Not Think Is “Up To The Task” Is Better Equipped To Decide An Issue Between Christians Than Even The Longest-Serving Judge On The Bench!
 - Remember: There Is Another Resolution Than Legal Disputes Between Christians!
 - This Is A Better Resolution Than Going To A Court Of Law!

4. *How Will You Respond To Legal Disputes Between Christians?*

- 6:5-6 - “I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? / But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers!”
 - Not Only Is It A Sin For A Christian To Sue Another Christian In A Court Of Law – It Is A Shame!
 - Because It Shows To Everyone:
 - What You Really Think About The Church / Christians / Even The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Is There Any Wisdom In The Church?
 - When A Christian Wants To Settle A Dispute With Another Christian In Court:
 - It Questions The Wisdom Of The Church!
 - And Even The Wisdom Of Christ!
 - To Provide The Wisdom That Is Needed To Make The Right Decision!
 - “Is It So, That There Is Not A Wise Man Among You?”
 - The Fact Is - The Wisdom Of God Is Available To Every Christian & To Every Church!
 - Even To Resolve Disputes!
 - Is There Any Ability In The Church?
 - When A Christian Wants To Settle A Dispute With Another Christian In Court:

- It Questions The Ability Of The Church!
- And Even The Ability Of Christ!
- To Provide The Ability That Is Needed To Make The Right Judgment!
- “No, Not One That Shall Be Able To Judge Between His Brethren?”
 - The Fact Is - The Power / Ability Of God Is Available To Every Christian & To Every Church!
 - Even To Resolve Disputes!
- Is There Any Care In The Church?
 - When A Christian Wants To Settle A Dispute With Another Christian In Court:
 - It Questions The Care / Concern Of The Church!
 - “But Brother Goeth To Law With Brother, And That Before The Unbelievers!”
 - Is There No Care / Concern / Love Within The Church?
 - Is There No Care For The Church’s Members?
 - Is There No Care For The Church’s Testimony?
 - Especially When These Disputes Go Public?
- How Will You Respond To Legal Disputes Between Christians?
 - It Ought To Shame Us!
 - It Ought To Change Us & How We Handle Disputes / Issues That Come Between Us!

5. *This Is The Reality Of Legal Disputes Between Christians:*

- 6:7-8 - “Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? / Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren!”
 - When You Go To Court - You Are Looking For Something:
 - Vengeance / Justice / Fairness / A Decision! But At What Cost?
 - There Is Too High A Cost When Christians Take Other Christians To Court!
- The Reality – There Is A Fault To The Church!
 - You May Think You Are Getting What You Want!
 - But This Is What Is Actually Going On: (6:7)
 - “Now Therefore There Is Utterly A Fault Among You, Because Ye Go To Law One With Another!”
 - “Fault” – A Decrease / A Diminishing Of What You Are As A Church Of Christ!
 - **IE:** Like The “Super Moon” That We Had Last Night At 11:34 pm! When The Moon Was At Its Closest Point To The Earth – It Was Also At Its Brightest & Clearest! Now - It Will Start To Decrease - Until The Sky Is Dark Altogether!
 - This is What Happens When A Christian Takes Another Christian To Court To Resolve Their Disputes!
 - You Are Losing Something Special That You Have!
 - Your Testimony / Your Liberty / Your Wisdom / Your Grace!
 - Once Bright & Clear - Now Dimmer Before The World!
 - That’s Too High A Price To “Fight For Your Rights!”
 - Instead - Paul Asks:
 - “Why Do Ye Not Rather Take Wrong?”
 - “Why Do Ye Not Rather Suffer Yourselves To Be Defrauded?”
 - Wouldn’t It Be Better All Around To Show Faith & Forgiveness & Love?
 - Even / Especially When You Have Been Wronged?
 - “Take Wrong” - To Suffer Some Kind Of Injury!
 - Deals With Your Person!
 - Who You Are!
 - Sometimes You Get Hurt - By What People Say About You Or Do To You!
 - “Suffer Being Defrauded” - To Be Robbed!
 - Deals With Your Possessions!
 - What You Have!
 - Sometimes People Take Things Away From You!
 - Wouldn’t It Be Better / Even More Christlike To Just Let It Go?

- Matthew 5:38-42 - “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: / But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. / And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. / And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. / Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away!”
- The Reality – There Is A Failure In The Church!
 - When A Christian Takes Another Christian To Court:
 - You May Think You Are Getting Everything Back!
 - But This Is What Is Actually Going On: (6:8)
 - “Nay, Ye Do Wrong, And Defraud, And That Your Brethren!”
 - You Think You Have Been Wronged?
 - No - You Are Doing The Wrong!
 - You Think You Have Been Robbed?
 - No - You Are Doing The Robbing!
 - When You Chose To Deal With These Matters Outside Of The Church!
 - And Instead Of Dealing With One Another As Brothers – You Are Treating Each Other As Strangers & Even Enemies!
- And This Is The Reality Of Legal Disputes Between Christians!

Conclusion:

1. Remember: It Is A Sin For A Christian To Sue Another Christian In A Court Of Law!
 - Not Only Is It A Sin – It Is A Shame!
2. It Is Better To Have Your Differences / Disputes:
 - Resolved By Another Christian!
3. It Is Even Better To Ignore & Forgive Those Differences / Disputes:
 - When You Have Been Wronged!
4. So - If There Is A Dispute Between You & Another Christian:
 - Don't Take It To Court!

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