

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Sermon Notes

Should Christians Sue Christians?

(1 Corinthians 6:1-11)

Two Reasons Paul Says "No!"

What Lawsuits Reveal about Our Values

"Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?" – 1 Cor. 6:1-6

What Lawsuits Reveal about Us

"Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren. Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." – 1 Cor. 6:7-11

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Have you ever been involved in a lawsuit? What were the costs and what were the benefits? Would you do it again?

Going Deeper

3. Please read 1 Cor. 6:1-6. List the questions Paul asks the Corinthians. How would you summarize Paul's first reason for not taking a fellow believer to court? Does this reason extend to other areas of life outside of lawsuits? If so, how? How should Christians handle disputes with those within the church? Have you ever seen this done?

4. Please read 1 Cor. 6:7-11. What is Paul's second reason Christians should not sue other Christians? Is Paul teaching that we are saved by our behavior rather than by faith in the free gift of Christ? Can you identify areas where your behavior does not yet match your position as Christ's disciple? What would repentance look like for you?

Application

What is one thing you will apply from this discussion?