

Christian Disputes and Civil Suits

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Introduction:

- A. We live in a sue-h_____ world
 - 1. People have been compensated well for their own f_____.
 - 2. Christians are not to be this way.
- B. Paul's counsel
 - 1. Does not have to do with lawsuits against secular o_____ or against u_____
 - 2. Is against Christians suing Christians
- C. How should you handle a legal dispute that you may have with a fellow-believer?

The worst case scenario (vv. 1-6)

- A. Having secular courts settle disputes between Christians is s_____ (v. 1)
 - 1. Every translation calls this act as d_____
 - 2. The meaning of the word is to have no shame.
- B. Having secular courts settle disputes between Christians makes no s_____ (vv. 2-6)
 - 1. Believers will eventually judge the w_____ of unbelievers (see Rev 5:9,10; 20:4) – v. 2
 - a. If Christians will settle disputes among the unbelieving world in the f_____.
 - b. Then Christians should be able to settle disputes among the believing world (i.e. saints) in the p_____.
 - 2. Believers will eventually judge the a_____ - v. 3
 - a. If Christians will judge angels in the n_____ life
 - b. Then Christians should be able to judge matters of this life.
 - 3. W_____ is needed to settle disputes among Christians – vv. 4-6
 - a. Secular courts have no accountability to the c_____ (what is to say that they will not judge rightly) – v. 4
 - b. Should not there be at least one w_____ person in the church? – v. 5
 - c. It is not wise for Christians to settle their disputes before unbelievers because it is a h_____ testimony – v. 6
 - 1) The world will know that we are true disciples because of our l_____ for one another (Jn 13:35)
 - 2) We are to be d_____ in preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3).

The better case scenario (vv. 7-11)

- A. It is better to forgive than to sue
 - 1. Suing a fellow believer is an immediate d_____ (NKJV – utter failure) – v. 7
 - 2. Suing a fellow believer is an act of s_____ (wrong, defrauding) - v. 8
- B. Remember who you _____.
 - 1. You are not who you were before you came to Christ – Paul lists several sinful l_____ that described many of the readers before they came to Christ.
 - 2. You are what you are because of what Christ did when you came to Christ.
 - a. You were w_____ (filth of sin)
 - b. You were s_____ (set apart from the unbelieving world)
 - c. You were j_____ (declared righteous)
 - 3. Act like who you are not who you were when in a civil dispute - it is better to forgive than to sue.

The best case scenario (v. 1)

- A. If you cannot resolve a dispute bring the matter before the s_____ (i.e. believers) – choose a believer or group of believers to be the arbitrator.
 - 1. This preserves the t_____ of Christians.
 - 2. This produces h_____ between the believers.
 - 3. This provides a_____ for any agreed upon action.
- B. Common example of loaning money