

Messy

Part Six: lawsuits

June 12, 2022

In chapter five, Paul tells the Corinthian Church to judge its sinful members and remove members that refuse to get right with God. Paul warns the Corinthians that one church member living a sinful lifestyle can contaminate their entire church. Well, the topic of judgment is continued in chapter six as Paul shifts to another issue that was hurting the church.

- **In the first half of chapter six, Paul shames the Corinthians for suing each other.**

The Corinthian believers had been so used to arguing, disputing, and taking one another to court before they were saved that they carried those selfish attitudes and habits over into their new lives as Christians. This was not only spiritually wrong, but practically unnecessary.

- **In Vs. 1, Paul details the Corinthians' bad behavior.**

Paul shamed the Corinthians for two reasons. One, they were suing their brothers and sisters in Christ. Two, they are suing their fellow church members in a secular court rather than settling their disputes in church.

- **In Vs. 2-11, Paul gave the Corinthians five reasons why Christians should not sue Christians.**

1. Christians are qualified to judge their civil disputes. Vs. 2-3

Christians will judge the world and the unholy angels (demons) one day with Christ, so they are qualified to judge their minor disagreements.

2. Christians are more qualified than non-Christians to judge civil disputes. Vs. 4-5

Christians have God's Word and the Holy Spirit to guide them, so they are more qualified to settle their disagreements than non-Christian judges and juries.

3. Christians that sue Christians make Christianity look bad. Vs. 6

When a Christian sues another believer in a secular court, they show hate, envy, jealousy, pride, selfishness, fear, greed, and discontentment. These are not the qualities Christ wants Christians to show unbelievers. Christ wants His followers to show the world how to love others (1 John 4:7-12)

4. Christians that sue Christians always lose. Vs. 7-8

Christians who take fellow Christians to court defeat themselves spiritually. When it comes to civil disputes, our goal should not be to protect our rights and possessions, but to protect our relationship with the Lord and with our fellow believers.

5. Christians that sue Christians look like unbelievers. Vs. 9-11

The sins Paul lists in verses 9-10 are meant to represent all the major types of moral sin, or the sins that generally characterize ungodly societies. Paul wants the Corinthians to see that Christians should not do these things, for when Christians do these sins, they resemble unbelievers. Paul's point is simple. People who have experienced new life in Christ should not live the way they used to live!

Here's the lesson today...

Christians should not resemble non-Christians; Christians should resemble Christ!