

The Church at Corinth - 1 Corinthians

Chapter 6:

Take it to the Lord – Not the world (vs. 1-8)

As we continue our study, Paul now turns his attention to the Corinthian church's discernment and judgement. Obviously, there were members within this divisive Church who were taking matters to court against other members. Paul seems so infuriated about it that he writes to them in these verses.

The Danger of Courts Handling Conflicts Among Believers

- Poor Witness
 - At Corinth, civil court was held at the Agora (marketplace), a very public place where people thought court fights were entertaining – BUT IMAGINE THE POOR WITNESS OF THE CHURCH
Rom. 14:16
- Should not be handled by the “unrighteous”: non believers and the world system
- Reflects upon serious concerns in the church:
 - Members are not submitted to Christ's judgement and the discernment of church leadership
 - Leaders not qualified because of lack of knowledge, lack of wisdom, poor discernment, etc. - Acts 6:3
 - For a Church that prided themselves on gifts and their “wisdom”, why couldn't they handle their own business?
- “unjust”: unrighteous, unsaved
 - why should the righteous or saved folk take matter to one not in right standing with God?

You Can't Handle This Stuff?

- “Will judge the world” - Dan. 7:22; Mat. 19:28; Rev. 2:26, 3:21, 20:4
- “shall judge angels” – Isa. 24:21; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6
- vs. 4: the least of the believers should be able to do better than the world
- Are there not any wise? – vs. 5

A Better Resolution

- Vs. 7: would be better to let it go than to pursue it
- The Corinthians were all about who won or lost. Instead Paul demonstrates to them that by taking another believer before a court of such meant that both had already lost!!
- Why we wont just eat it? Pride, materialism, self-centeredness, self-serving
Mat. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:17-21; Phil. 2:1-8

Purity Among Believers

Don't Be Deceived (vs. 9-10)

- Everyone is not going to inherit the Kingdom of God
 - *Fornicators* (pornos): sexually immoral; *idolaters* (eidololatrias): image worshippers; *adulterers* (moichos): one that is unfaithful to God; *effeminate* (malakos): of a boy kept for homosexual relations with a man, of a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness, of a male prostitute, any and all gender perversion; *abusers of themselves with mankind* (arsenokoites): sodomite, one who lies with a male as with a female, sodomite, homosexual
 - *Thieves* (kleptes): stealer; *covetous* (pleonektes): one eager to have more, especially what belongs to others; *drunkards* (methusos): tipsy, intoxicated; *revilers* (loidoros): abuser, user of abusive, foul language; *extortioners* (harpax): ravenous, robber
- Those who practice these things, those who merely profess Christianity but whose lives are submitted to.
 - Genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ produces fruitful work (Eph. 2:8-10)

Been There – Done That (vs. 11)

- WERE – PAST TENSE!!
- Look at what happened: washed, sanctified, justified – Rom. 8:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:17

