

DIRTY CHURCH

To Sue or Not to Sue?

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

1. Have you ever been part of a lawsuit? What happened? What was the effect it had on you or on your faith?

2. In what ways do Christians make better judges over Christians than unbelieving judges? What would be your hesitations if you were involved in a dispute with another believer and someone in your church suggested they mediate an outcome? In 1 Corinthians 2:15, it says Christians have, "the mind of Christ". How does this help Christians make good judgments in disputes?

3. Is Paul arguing in verse 2 that Christians should only be involved in judging "trivial disputes" and not the more significant ones or is he arguing that compared to judging the world and angels, every other dispute in this life is "trivial"? Defend your view from the context of the passage.

4. How do unbelievers respond to the divisions they see in churches? Why? How do you respond to the knowledge that there are lawsuits occurring between believers? Why?

5. Paul says it is better to "be wronged" or "be defrauded" than to take another Christian to court in verses 7-8. How does the life and ministry of Jesus support such a statement? What makes it hard to endure and not respond to wrongdoing when it is done against you?

6. Why does Jesus respond the way he does to the request to judge between two brothers in Luke 12:13-15? What is the reason Jesus follows his response with a story about the rich fool and commands not to worry? What does this indicate about the source of lawsuits between believers?

7. Can a Christian persist in unrepentant sin and still be a Christian? Will they "inherit the kingdom"? In the list of sins in verses 9-10, which sins stick out to you? Why do they stick out? Can a professing Christian unrepentantly persists in homosexual acts and expects to inherit the Kingdom of God? Why or why not?

8. Why does Paul follow his warning in verses 9-10 with the reminder of God's grace in verse 11? Why is it important to know that we have been washed, sanctified, and justified? What do these words mean and how should knowing they are true of us to influence the way we act towards God and one another?

Cross references: Revelation 20:6. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16. Matthew 6:38-40. Romans 12:18-19. Luke 12:15. Matthew 7:21-23.