

**“SETTLING OUT OF THE
WORLD’S COURT”**
1 Corinthians 6:1-8

INTRODUCTION

The Corinthians had problems which stemmed from pride. Paul addressed these issues in an attempt to strengthen the leadership and the church. They lost sight that Jesus not only wanted to save them, but to transform them. Unfortunately, there was a legal dispute in the church that was being taken to a secular court. While this is not forbidden, placing the “dirty laundry” of the church in public is discouraged. Paul’s tone is that they have failed in their witness because of this.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHURCH

With their handling of this particular debate within the church, Paul addresses comments and questions to them, such as v. 1, “How dare you?”; v.2, “Don’t you know?”; v.3, “Don’t you know?”; v.5, “I speak to your shame”; v.7, “You have failed.” These questions and comments are to humble them. Paul says that what you are doing is wrong and you should know better! When the church ignores God’s instructions, they become weak!

WE’LL JUDGE THE WORLD!

In perspective, Paul points out that the church should not go to the world for judgment, but that the world should be coming to us! **Psalm 149:9** states “...to execute on them the written judgment—this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!” This event will take place at the end of the Tribulation, prior to the Millennium. In verse 3 it indicates that we will judge the fallen angels. This will take place at the White Throne judgment.

LET’S KEEP IT IN HOUSE

The foolishness of God is wiser than men! Paul indicates that the least credentialed Christian would be a better judge than those of the worldly Corinthian courts. It would be far better to let the pastors and elders use God’s word to help search out answers to the conflicts that go on within the church body. In that situation, it would save much of the unnecessary damage (spiritual/emotional and physical). Christians need to remember that the Glory of God is at stake, and that is the main issue. It is more important that there be a good witness for Christ, than a win or loss in the court system. The most important thing is, what does the Holy Spirit want? The church cannot afford to get caught up with in fights over money or possessions in front of the world. **“If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.” Matthew 5:40** NKJV. While others are expressing outrage, and demanding their rights, Christians are pilgrims, just passing through. It is Jesus first, and country second.

YOU FAILED!

Paul tells the Corinthians that the church in Corinth has failed because they have gone to the world to vent their disputes. Even if you win in a secular court, brother vs. brother, you may really lose since the reputation of Jesus would become tarnished. If you really want to win, allow yourself to take the injustice.

CONSIDER

Jesus is our example of allowing Himself to be wronged, as explained in **1 Peter 2:19-23**. When He suffered wrongfully, Jesus was silent and let others make wrong conclusions about Him. He didn’t fight back! Jesus committed Himself to His Father and let Him be the Judge and controller of His life. What are ways that we can live in this manner?

In our flesh *we* want to fight back if we feel that we are being wronged or cheated. What if we work extra hours and don’t get paid for it? What if we feel that we are being taken advantage of? In humility, let us all follow His example! **“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” James 4:10** NKJV

PRAY

- that we would not allow pride to rule our lives.
- that we would realize that our witness is of the utmost importance.
- that members of the church body would be willing to take the wrong and not act as the world does!