

## RATHER BE WRONGED

### 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-8 (ESV)

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! 4 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, 6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? 7 To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

#### 1. THE ISSUE OF LAWSUITS

A. THEY HAVE FAILED TO **RESOLVE** MATTERS WITHIN THE CHURCH AS THEY SHOULD

*“All the water in the world, however hard it tried, could never sink the smallest ship unless it gets inside” – George E. Lyon*

*“The Corinthian church was in the World, but it had failed insofar as the world was in it” – Alistair Begg*

B. THEY HAVE MADE **EXTERNAL** WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED **INTERNALLY**

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? (1 Corinthians 6:1)

#### 2. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHURCH

- A. THE NAME OF JESUS IS **DEGRADED**
- B. THE CHURCH IS PUBLICALLY **DISGRACED**
- C. WE LOSE SIGHT OF OUR **DESTINY**
- D. THE END RESULT IS **DEFEAT**

#### 3. THE INSTRUCTION FOR BELIEVERS

CHRISTIANS WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR **RIGHTS** AND HAD LOST SIGHT OF THEIR **RESPONSIBILITIES**

*Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? (1 Corinthians 6:7)*

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)*

*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:16)*

*“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.” – Timothy Keller*

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – RATHER BE WRONGED**

1. Why is it tempting to bring issues to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party rather than the person we are in conflict with?
2. Do public lawsuits really discredit the church? Are you aware of anyone outside the church that thinks Christians are hypocritical because they sue one another in public court?
3. Do you think Paul is making an all-encompassing statement on law? Why or why not?
4. What will Christians do according to verses 2, 3, and what is Paul's point? (Think: In what sense will Christians do this?)
5. Considering all the above, summarize what a brother should do instead of taking a brother to court.
6. What does verse 7 say we should be willing to do, if necessary? (Think: In what circumstances might this be necessary) Why is this so difficult?
7. Really, why should we be willing to “be wronged” as Paul instructs?