

Groups Guide

4/23/23

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Awkward Conversations

Pastor David Uth

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

6 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!

Sermon Notes:

Instructions:

This discussion guide serves as a conversation starter for your small group. Every week we will feature an icebreaker question in the **Belong** section as well as give you a recap from the week before. Your main discussion will be centered around the **Believe** section where you will read the key passage and answer suggested questions based on the sermon. Feel free to use some or all of these questions or add your own. Finally, in the **Become** section we will give you a couple of ways to practically apply what we have learned together.

Belong:

Ice Breaker: What is one thing you've learned in our study of 1 Corinthians that has stuck with you?

1 Corinthians 5 Recap: Last week Pastor David taught on 1 Corinthians 5 which Paul (the author) addresses two key issues facing the church in Corinth. The first being a man was acting in a sexually immoral way and the second was that the church was tolerating this behavior. Paul gives some very specific instructions to the church to remove the man from their midst in hopes that in the process he would repent and be saved. Pastor David pointed out that in 2 Corinthians we read evidence that this man actually did repent of his sin and come to faith in Christ. How encouraging is that! Today Pastor David will be teaching from 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 In this passage Paul says there is a better way to handle disputes among believers than going to court. He also addresses what an unrighteous life looks like and how our redemption changes us.

Believe: (Big Idea/Main Discussion)

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 Though it seems at face value that this passage on lawsuits is random, there is a similarity with last week's discussion on the man who was sexually immoral. In both cases, what has the church failed to do?

How do you reconcile what Paul is telling them in this passage with Matthew 7:1-5 on the teaching by Jesus on judging others?

What does it mean in the context of this passage that someday Christians are going to judge angels and the world? What would you expect from the church today (or in Corinth) if we are to judge the world? Is Paul asking too much of them?

Paul instead tells them there is a better way to handle disputes between believers. What does he advise? Have you ever heard or seen this done in the church? Without naming the individual parties, share what you observed and what was the outcome.

Can you think of why public lawsuits are so damaging within a church body?

Paul also challenges the Corinthians one final time with but yet another alternative to public lawsuits or settling disputes within the context of the church. (1 Corinthians 6:7) Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

This passage is not saying everything should be handled within the church and not the courts. What do you think? What should be a legal issue in all cases?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Paul goes on to list the types of people that will not share in the kingdom of God. What do you notice about this list? Does anything here surprise you? Why or why not?

NOTE: It might be helpful to use a dictionary app or dictionary and define these terms because we sometimes get stuck on one or two of the list when the truth is, we are all on the list somewhere:

sexually immoral

idolaters

adulterers

homosexuality

Thieves

greedy

drunkards

Revilers

swindlers

Cross Reference: Other places where Paul uses a similar but slightly different list:
Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-4, Colossians 3:5-10

What is unrighteousness?

Who is considered unrighteous?

Cross Reference: Psalm 14:1-3, Romans 3:23-24

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they were just like the people on the list. They were rooted in sin before they met Christ.

What is true of them now?

What did Christ do with our identity?

Note: Just as it is helpful to break down the types of sinful behaviors, it is also helpful to explain and define these “church” words so that everyone understands what they mean:

Washed

Sanctified

Justified

Cross Reference: 1 John 1:9 - what does this testify to us about? And how does Paul encourage the Corinthians with this same truth?

What would change in your life if you truly lived according to your identity in Christ? Do you think it would make a difference in how you treated other people?

Become: (Application)

What are some steps you can take if you have a dispute with another believer within your church?

Verses 1 Cor 6: 9-11 can be used to stir up repentance and a heart full of gratitude. Take some time this week to sit with the Lord and thank him for cleansing your sins, restoring you, and putting you on the right path. We have much to be thankful for!

Prayer: Lord, thank you for washing away our sins, setting us apart for your purpose, and accepting us because of Jesus and his Spirit. We want to live in a way that brings honor to your name.