**1 CORINTHIANS 6**

**CHOOSE LOVE OVER LAWSUITS**

Did you know that there is an American Indian Tribe where over half of the adults are practicing attorneys? They are the “SO-SUE-ME” Tribe.

The Corinthian church was a carnal bunch as we have learned and one of the areas where they were failing was in taking one another to court rather than allowing love to reign in their differences and disagreements. So Paul says…

**1 Corinthians 6:1** Dare any of you, **(How dare you)** having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

* Like OUR culture the Greeks loved to sue one another… They would have erected a statue of Larry H. Parker in the Acropolis.
* **GUZIK** - The local judges sat in what was known as the *bema* seat of the civil magistrate, which was located in the heart of the marketplace. Because Greek culture found a good legal battle entertaining, anyone’s lawsuit soon became public knowledge.
* The church SHOULD be famous for loving kindness… NOT for legal entertainment.

**HOW FUTURE JUDGES SHOULD BEHAVE**

2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

* The people saved during the tribulation period will come before a jury of believers who have been raptured into heaven. US! **Ref. Daniel 7:18**
* Paul is teaching that we will someday make judgments on eternal matters… Shouldn’t we be able to make a call on temporal matters?

3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? **(Fallen angels?)** How much more, things that pertain to this life? 4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church **(The courts)** to judge?

* The legal system is not the best place for spiritual decisions… It was a bad testimony for the Corinthian church members to be suing one another.

**WANT OF WISE MEN & WOMEN**

5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

* Oh, Believers… PLEASE don’t let pride and stubbornness take you to the world for conciliation. Try **Matthew 18:15-20** before Larry H. Parker!
* We are blessed to have Christian arbitration professionals at our disposal. Here is just one: **www.instituteforchristianconciliation.com/directory**

**TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM!**

7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?

* NLT - Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated?

**NO CHEATERS IN HEAVEN**

8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and *you do* these things *to your* brethren! 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived**. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, **(Abusive)** nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **SEE EPH. 5 & GAL. 5 FOR OTHER LISTS**

* Unconfessed and Unrepented for sin will NOT be in heaven!
* We were in a Simi Valley Department store last week and they were collecting donations for the “Pride and Joy” campaign to help people in a perverted lifestyle to stop feeling shame about it.
* Well… If you in a lifestyle that the Bible calls an abomination perhaps you should repent and allow the Holy Spirit to change you from the inside out.
	+ He will!
	+ He loves you.
	+ AND… So do we!
	+ BUT… Unconfessed sin is spiritually deadly.
* Believers are not perfect… They are forgiven; They are changed; They are broken; They are turning away from **anything** that the Bible calls sin. PRIDE being the worst sin of all!

**SAVED PEOPLE ARE CHANGED PEOPLE**

11 And such **were** some of you. But you were **washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. ***IE, You were changed by the Lord!***

* We used to sing a lot about being washed by the blood of the Lamb.
* What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
* There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood wash all their sins away…
* There is a song on the radio right now entitled: GONE!
* It wasn't for nothing that you shed your blood
So I'm gonna live like my shame is gone
Won't be shackled to the way I was
I'm gonna live like my chains are gone, gone
Now my sin is dead and gone
And I sing hallelujah
Done, done
He is risen - it is done
And I sing hallelujah
* CCLI Song # 7129061

**SHUN SEXUAL IMMORALITY**

12 All things are lawful for me, **(I can do what I want)** but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. **NLT - I must not become a slave to anything.**

**Addiction to ANYTHING = Slavery**

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, ***Live it up!***

**(They were made for one another)**

but God will destroy both it and them.

* GOOD NEWS – Someday our appetite will be a thing of the past. This will also end our lust for sin… Listen…

Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

* Some say if God didn’t want us to have sex WHY did He give us a sex drive?
* Well… He gave us marriage and THAT is where those drives are to be satisfied.
* Need help? Listen…

**I WILL RISE!**

14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. **THIS IS OUR BLESSED HOPE**

**LIGHT CANNOT MIX WITH DARKNESS**

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

* Our bodies are to be used to glorify God, not horrify Him.
* Chuck Smith tells the story of when a woman was arrested for prostitution while wearing a Calvary Chapel T-shirt… Of course the nightly news had to show that on TV… He was sorry that he ever made those T-shirts!
* Let’s never make God sorry He chose us CCSV!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her?* For "THE TWO," He says, "SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

* The act of marriage is meant to make two people into one. The Bible calls this a mystery… **Here is another mystery… V17**

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him.*

* Ah… That is a glorious truth! And so I will…

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. **This sin does internal spiritual damage.**

**OWNED**

19 Or do you not know **(Can’t you see?)** that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

* IF that is YOUR desire today… then I think you have been changed by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ… SO… Let us live to glorify God with all that we do, AND with all that we DO NOT do! Amen?