

Truth for the Troubled Church
1 Corinthians 6:1-8

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. In this passage, Paul instructs believers to resolve disputes within the church. Is there a kind of dispute or wrongdoing that would be appropriate for Christians to pursue in a civil court? How would you support your answer from Scripture?
3. Based on this passage and elsewhere in Scripture (such as Matt. 19:28, Jude 1:6, Rev. 5:10, and Rev. 20:4) in what way and role will Christians judge the world (vs 2) and angels (vs 3)?
4. Earlier in his letter Paul said that he did not write to shame the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:14), and here in verse 5 Paul says, "I say this to your shame". When is it helpful and appropriate for Christians to use or identify shame as a tool for helping others grow in Christlikeness?
5. According to this passage, who is qualified to judge disputes between believers? What makes them more qualified than professionally trained and experienced mediators and judges?
6. What are some of the risks of allowing a dispute among believers to be handled by unbelievers? What potential risks might there be for believers who do NOT take their disputes to civil courts?
7. Does specific circumstance ever provide exception to the teaching in verse 7 that it is better to be "wronged" and "defrauded" than take disputes between believers outside the church? For example, what if you cannot afford the loss, or if the damages were significant?
8. How do the principles of this passage apply when one or both believers are part of a larger body, such as a corporation or business?
9. What other responsibilities does the Church and/or the individual believer have which are being abdicated to, or taken over by, our secular culture?