

Today's passage: 1 Corinthians 6

Title: 'Submit to One Another out of Love for Christ'

David's key points:

- Link from last week's loaf - Paul's message to the Corinthians in chapter 5 is that sin must not be tolerated among believers and church discipline is essential to maintain a high standard of morality. (5).
- Introduction - Paul said "The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already" (6:7).
- The Law & Courts are good – There are valid disputes which must be taken before the ungodly for judgement e.g. crimes & disputes involving unbelievers (6:1).
- Disputes between believers should be dealt with by the Church – If you have disputes between believers appoint judges in the church to settle the matter (6:4).
- Submission is a better way – Paul says that lawsuits among believers are a sign of defeat. The Corinthians were demanding their rights, but Paul says in Ephesians 5:21 "Submit to one another" as the Lord submitted to His Heavenly Father.

Fellowship Group Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul say the Corinthians have been completely defeated already? Isn't recourse to the courts a good thing? (6:7)
2. Why would it be appropriate for disputes involving unbelievers to be taken before the courts?
3. Will the saints really judge the world & angels or was Paul being sarcastic? (6:2-3)
4. Did Paul really recommend the appointment of "men of little account" to be judges in the church? (6:4).
5. Discuss why submission was a difficult concept for the Corinthians to understand and practice. Is it any different in the church today?

Other helpful passages:

Ephesians 4:17-32 in which Paul exhorts believers to no longer live in darkness as the Gentiles do, but to live as children of light.
Colossians 3:12-14 where Paul says "bear with each other & forgive whatever grievences you may have against one another".
Matthew 18:15-17 in which the Lord Jesus Christ sets out the Christian alternative to taking a fellow Christian to court.