

**MESSAGE.**

In 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Paul addresses the destructive nature of internal relational conflict and lawsuits among believers, emphasizing how these disputes damage the church's public witness. Rather than seeking to win arguments at all costs, true victory in Christian community is found in choosing unity, walking in forgiveness, and pursuing holiness. The Gospel fundamentally transforms how believers handle conflict by replacing old patterns of behavior with a new identity rooted in being washed, sanctified, and justified in Christ. Ultimately, remembering this shared transformation empowers believers to resolve disagreements with the grace, humility, and Christlike love required to preserve the unity of the church.

**PRAYER.**

Heavenly Father,

You are Lord and call Your children to a new way of living. Lead us to not allow our emotions or our own sense of justice to determine our actions, but to live in response to the Gospel.

Amen.

**ENGAGE.****Observing and Understanding the Text**

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6.

- What specific situation is Paul addressing, and why is he so outraged that they are taking these matters to secular courts?
- According to verses 2-3, what future reality and status do believers hold that makes them fully capable of judging internal disputes?
- Rather than demanding their legal rights, what responses does Paul suggest (v. 7)?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

- Paul lists several behaviors and lifestyles that characterize those who "will not inherit the kingdom of God." What is the point of reminding the Corinthians of this list?
- In verse 11, Paul uses three specific verbs to describe the believers' new reality: *washed*, *sanctified*, and *justified*. What does each of these terms mean in the context of their new identity?

**Connecting to the Sermon & Defining Truth**

"The Gospel gives a new identity and a new way of handling conflict."

- How does letting a legal dispute escalate to a public, secular court show that the church is letting culture define "winning" rather than letting the Gospel define unity?
- Why is a believer's demand to "win the argument" or secure their legal rights actually a spiritual defeat for the community as a whole?
- Loving each other requires remembering who we used to be. How does the radical shift in identity found in verse 11 ("And such were some of you...") challenge the way we view and treat brothers and sisters with whom we have deep disagreements?
- In what ways does pursuing holiness and choosing forgiveness within the church serve as a powerful witness to a broken world, contrasted with the way the culture handles conflict?

**Personal Application**

- The greatest victory is not winning the argument but walking in forgiveness. Think of a current or recent disagreement with another believer. How can you practically lay down the desire to "win" in order to prioritize Christlike unity?
- Reflecting on 1 Corinthians 6:11, how should living out this new identity change the way you react when someone in the church wrongs or offends you?

**For these cities. For all people.**

## Day 1: Winning the Argument vs. Winning the Peace

**The Big Idea:** True victory isn't getting our way; it's choosing unity and forgiveness.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:1, 7**

### Visual Aid

- Hold up a trophy or medal. Ask: *"What happens if you fight so hard to win a sibling argument that everyone ends up mad? Did you actually win anything good?"*

### Discuss

- The church in Corinth was taking each other to public court over arguments. Paul was shocked! He told them that dragging their fights out in front of the world meant they had already lost. The world says winning means proving you're right. But Paul asks a tough question: *"Why not rather be wronged?"* He means keeping peace and showing love in God's family is way more important than winning an argument.
- Why is it so hard to say, *"It's okay, I forgive you,"* instead of fighting to prove you are right?
- How does letting a small mistake go show the love of Jesus to others?

**Pray:** Ask God for help staying humble and not caring about winning, but more about forgiveness.

## Day 2: The Family Name

**The Big Idea:** The way we treat each other shows the world who God is.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:2-6**

### Visual Aid

- Put on a sports jersey or look at a family photo. Ask: *"If a player wears a team jersey but acts mean and cheats on the field, what does that make people think about the whole team?"*

### Discuss

- Paul reminds the believers that they have an amazing, royal future in God's kingdom. Because they belong to God, he asks why they are acting like they don't know how to handle everyday disagreements. When Christians fight and treat each other badly, it ruins our "team jersey." God calls us to holiness. Loving each other means acting like God's family so the world sees a beautiful picture of His grace.
- If someone watched how we treat each other at home, what would they learn about God?
- What is one way we can handle a disagreement today that honors our "family name"?

**Pray:** Talk to God about our actions representing His family.

## Day 3: Scrubbed Clean and Brand New

**The Big Idea:** Jesus gives us a new identity that empowers us to leave selfish behaviors behind.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

### Visual Aid

- Show a cloth covered in dark mud or marker stains, then show a completely clean, bright white towel.

### Discuss

- Paul lists several sins—like lying, cheating, and greed—and reminds the believers, *"And such were some of you."* Our hearts used to look like that muddy cloth. But then Jesus did three things: He **washed** us clean, **sanctified** us (set us apart for a special purpose), and **justified** us (declared us completely not guilty). Because Jesus completely changed who we are, we don't have to act out of our old, selfish ways anymore.
- When you remember how much Jesus has forgiven you, how does that help you treat others with grace?
- How does it feel to know that God looks at you and sees you as completely clean?

**Pray:** Thank God for washing us clean.