

# Majoring On The Minors

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:7 (NASB)**

## I) From Boasting To Incest To Lawsuits...

- A) The followers of Jesus in Corinth, proud of their church and its accomplishments (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:1-4:21), have been confronted over their toleration of a strange case of incest (5:1-8), but not to withdraw from the world (5:9-13).
- B) In some sense, Paul has been emphasizing that followers of Christ should drop the pride in their accomplishments (they are often not as responsible for them as they think), and take more responsibility for engaging sinful situations (they are often more responsible for them than they think).
- C) Into this environment, Paul notes that there is another issue of which he has become aware which is very troubling -- lawsuits between Christians in the local church (6:1ff).

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- C) Into this environment, Paul notes that there is another issue of which he has become aware which is very troubling -- lawsuits between Christians in the local church (6:1ff).

## 2) Is There No Follower Of Jesus Who Can Figure This Out?

- A) The "law" of Corinth often was filled with corruption and favored those who were rich and/or in positions of influence (cf. James 2:6). Christians should not be associated with "unrighteous" judges for disputes (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:1).
- B) Paul's logic is that since Christians are "in Christ," they will (future) judge both the world and angels (evil angels?). "How much more matters of this life?" (6:2-3).
- C) Disputes in the church are not to be resolved through the normal legal system, but through the "wise" (6:4-5).
- D) The point is not that Christians hide their problems from the world, but that Christians take hold of the opportunity to demonstrate the power of God's grace in "Christ, and Him crucified" to non-believers. The world needs to be able to see the grace of God at work (6:6).

## 3) The Reversal Of Kingdom Living

- A) The truth is, the grace of God is already threatened amongst Christians who do not embrace God's grace enough to extend it to one another. It is better to be wronged or defrauded than to justify yourself through means which are outside of Christ's church (6:7).
- B) In fact, in the process of justification of one's self, we can become part of the problem (6:8). Whenever we feel we are not being treated fairly, we are in danger of losing contact with our internal/external experience of God's grace.

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