

Read

1 Corinthians 6:1-11
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Consider

Everybody should be held accountable to what he or she does in the sense and implication of responsibility, and even more so under the law. To those under the law, every mouth may be silenced and the “whole world is held accountable to God” (Romans 3:19-20).

Paul points out to the Corinthians in 1 Cor.6:1-11 that it is not right to take their own congregants to secular court for settlement instead of handling smaller problems between believers. Roman law courts administered cases in accordance with Roman standards. What about God’s standards? As Christians we have the Holy Spirit and the mind of Christ, so why should we turn to those who lack God’s wisdom? With all that we have been given as believers, and the power that we will have in the future to judge the world and the angels (2 Tim.2:12), we should be able to deal with the disputes between ourselves. The basis for going to court is often revenge which should never be a Christian’s motive. Also, lawsuits make the church look bad, causing unbelievers to focus on its problems rather than its purpose. In Christian love they should have “turned the other cheek” (Matt.5:39) and be willing to suffer wrong and loss of material goods (v.7) rather than harm and cheat their fellow Christians.

Paul concludes that practicing acts of wickedness toward others will not inherit the kingdom of God (v.9-10). They are no better than the wicked idolaters and others who will not inherit heaven. To the list of sinners, Paul adds adulterers and thieves. In the light of this comparison, the Corinthians should have seen how unchristian and sinful their actions were toward one another. In reminding them of their identity as followers of Christ, Paul points out that when the Lord saved them, they are **washed** (spiritually cleansed by God, symbolized by baptism – Matt. 28:19), **sanctified** (set apart as God’s people -1 Peter 2:9), and **justified** (declared as righteous because of Christ - Rom.3:23-26).

We should be looking forward to things that are eternal instead of only those in sight. (2 Cor. 4:16-18) relates that “We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day, for our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Deacon Sam Chan

Pray

Dear God, grant us the wisdom of how to live a sanctified life, away from committing evil deeds and actions, and help us fix our eyes on your wonderful face so that nothing in this world would pull our hearts away from following you. We live in this world, and yet don't belong to it as it is only temporary for us travelers. Show us the way to live, focusing on things of eternal value instead of trivial materials which are like flowers in the wilderness, fading away when the morning dew comes. Amen.

Divining Deeper

Why should we not take cases of dispute to the law court, but instead settle such matters internally among believers (v.1-6)?

In verse 2, Paul reminds the Corinthians that as God's people, we "will judge the world". In what way are we able to do that? What trivial cases are we competent to judge? Where in the scripture are we told to judge the angels? How is this authority to judge the angels related to judging "things of this life"?

Why did Paul suggest that we rather be wronged or cheated than settling the disputes in lawsuits (v.7-8)?

As believers of the Lord Jesus, how are we to demonstrate God's love through our identity as having been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord by the Spirit? Please share your experience.

How can we live closer **WITH GOD** in our lives?

How are we being **TRANSFORMED** to be more like Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit empowering us to imitate Christ in what we **DO** this week?