



Working it Out wk6: Dealing with Disagreement

Introduction: We live in a litigious culture. Lawyers advertise everywhere and it seems like there are lawsuits filed everyday about even trivial matters. Paul warns us not to take other believers to court. What if we were so good at resolving disputes that we didn't?

Discussion Questions

1. Despite the negative opinion that most have about lawyers, we love legal drama's and law is one of the most pursued occupations in our county. Why are we so drawn to the idea of using the law to get our way or resolve our disputes?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 6:1-8** How does Paul's mention of making judgments here connect to the end of chapter 5? Why is Paul concerned about lawsuits between believers? Why is vs 7 so hard for us? How does remembering Christ's character help us when dealing with conflicts and disagreements?
3. Why is it important for Christians to resolve disagreements within the church, rather than resorting to outside judgment? What would be required for us to do this kind of mediation inside a church?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 6:9-13** Why does Paul remind them of their former sins or identity? How does our understanding of our new identity in Christ influence the way we approach disagreements and conflicts?
5. What impact does our conduct as Christians have on non-believers' opinions of Jesus and the church? What message is sent to the world when they see Christian's suing each other or other churches?
6. Is Paul forbidding all lawsuits for Christians here? How can we discern when things rise to the level of needed to involve legal remedies?

Shaping Your Mind – *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:11*

Moving Forward – *Stop expecting non-Christians to act like Christians, expect that of other believers*