

Speaking of Judges
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

1. Big Picture
 - a. Paul closes his instructions regarding blatant sin in the fellowship with the admonition to recognize and label sin as “sin” and deal with it accordingly,
 - i. judging behavior and acting in love in whatever ways are most necessary to save sinful hearts in danger of eternal damnation.
 - ii. God will judge those outside the church; you need to judge those inside the church and deal judiciously with them for the sake of their salvation.

 - b. A second problem that threatens to weaken the spiritual health and well-being of the church, as well as their witness to the unsaved.
 - i. The first threat was tolerance of sexual immorality.
 - ii. The second threat is acceptance of misplaced mediation.
 - (1) Apparently this is a two fold problem
 - (a) One Christian brother has cheated another (probably in a property dispute)
 - (b) The cheated brother has taken the cheater to court
 - (2) Paul is almost beside himself and addresses this problem in the most scathing language of the entire letter.
 - (a) Rhetorical questions that challenge the wisdom they claim to have in abundance
 - (b) Direct accusation of impropriety
 - (c) Sarcasm
 - (d) Eschatological summary
 - (e) Dire warning
 - (f) Fervent invitation to repentance

 - c. In order to understand Paul’s position regarding resolving disputes among Christians, we need to understand the position God has put us in relative to Himself through Jesus Christ.
 - i. Every issue Paul has confronted in this letter so far he has done so by talking us to the cross.
 - (1) The cross of Christ is not merely some historical event which satisfies the demand for divine justice
 - (2) The cross of Jesus Christ is the life changing event that changes the past and reshapes the present and the future for all those who believe.
 - ii. In this paragraph,
 - (1) Paul defines his audience
 - (a) In very personal, moral terms.
 - (b) In very personal, salvation terms
 - (2) Paul describes God
 - (a) In terms of His ability to recognize and redeem their moral

status

(b) In terms of God's sovereign grace

(i) As the indwelling reason Christians must resolve conflicts among themselves without the world's intervention

(ii) As the indwelling ability Christians can resolve conflicts without the world's intervention

2. Paul's Statement of Their Former and Current Status

a. Here's what you were

- i. Unrighteous
- ii. Sexually immoral
- iii. Idolaters
- iv. Adulterers
- v. Men who practice homosexuality
- vi. Thieves
- vii. Greedy
- viii. Drunkards
- ix. Revilers
- x. Swindlers

b. Here's what you are

- i. But you were washed
- ii. But you were sanctified
- iii. But you were justified
 - (1) In the name of Jesus Christ
 - (2) Through the Holy Spirit
 - (3) of our God

c. Stop acting like what you were and start acting like what you are.

3. How can knowing who you are as a person saved by grace change the way you handle disputes with believers today?

a. Share the same need and the same Savior

b. Strive to find ways of conflict resolution that acuate God's word and God's principles

c. Settle for nothing less than honoring God and exalting Christ as the Spirit works in you.