

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 Judging in the church

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

1. Paul is addressing a series of problems in the Corinthian church. What are the several aspects of the particular issue being addressed in this passage?
2. Judgments and justice are at the heart of this problem. What significant limitation on the scope of these judgments does Paul indicate at the end of the previous chapter?
3. In this passage, are there any other limitations implied on the kinds of matters that should be judged within the church?
4. What is Paul's rationale for calling Christians to exercise judgment and discipline within the Christian community?
5. Verse 7 raises the possibility of being wronged and cheated by other believers, and just letting that happen without 'justice' being done. Why is this a Christian thing to do? (some food for further thought: Matt 18:21-35; 1 Pet 2:18-25).
6. How do verses 9-11 help us understand the practicalities of verses 7-8?
7. Let's see if we can apply 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 to some scenarios that might take place in a church like ours. What ought to be done in the following situations:
 - (i) Bert and Bob are two Christian men in our church. Bert engages Bob to build his new house. After a while there is a dispute about the building contract and a large sum of money is at stake. Bert does some research and finds out that Bob the Builder has been the subject of complaints to the Department of Fair Trading and the Builders Licensing Board before. He considers calling his lawyer.
 - (ii) A new man arrives at your church. He is very friendly towards many of the young boys, often giving them gifts and playing games with them. After the church weekend away, one of the boys comes to you and says the man had approached him and asked him to do something of a sexual nature.
 - (iii) Mary and Martha have been leading women in your church for years. They each lead their own home groups; outdoing each other in putting on fabulous morning teas and raising money for mission. At times this seems almost competitive. From time to time, you notice the women surrounding Mary and Martha are upset with each other or just not speaking to one another.

Prayer

What matters for prayer arise for you out of this study? Pray about them as a group.