

Acceptable Sin

Another failure resulting from Corinth's pride

They were taking one another to court over civil matters, 1 Cor 6:1

They were taking one another to court before the "ungodly."

This is not a reference to lost people

It is a reference to the wicked, corrupt judicial system that was Corinth

The Roman empire prided itself on its legal system. It was better than some

Corinth had a reputation of the wealthy and the well connected getting preference in civil matters. The only people who would attempt such matters were those who were wealthy and well connected. It is certain that the "haves" of the church of Corinth were abusing their "have-not" brothers in pagan courts for personal advantage, see also 6:6!

Why they should have known better, 1 Cor 6:2-3

In the future, saints will judge (rule) the world under Jesus Christ, 6:2a

In the future, saints will judge angels, 6:3a

See Isaiah 24:21-23; Matt 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6 (also Daniel 7:22)

Therefore

They ought to be growing in ability to judge trivial matters, 6:2b

They ought to be growing in ability to judge things of this life, 6:3b

So

Saints are learning now in this earthly sojourn what is needed for an eternity of service (ruling and reigning) with Jesus Christ. Luke 19:17, 19; 2 Tim 2:12, etc

There ought to have been some people in the church of Corinth who had grown in grace enough to mitigate between believers who had differences.

What they should have done, 6:4-5

The church should have made these civil matters items that were dealt with internally.

They should have been content with the decisions of men of even “little account.”

They ought to be ashamed about this, 6:5

There had to be someone or some people who could be trusted to decide these matters, 6:5

What they needed to understand, 6:7-9

There were no winners in these lawsuits, 6:7

They were cheating and harming each other, 6:8

The cause of Christ was set back for the sake of a civil matter

They were not acting in love. “By this will all men know you are my disciples, because you love one another.”

It is better to be wronged than to wrong a brother!

It is better to be cheated than to cheat a brother!

This sin was just as wicked as any of the following listed in 6:9-10

They were greedy for gain. They coveted that which was not theirs to covet. They did not care what God thought.

They were inconsiderate of their brothers, only very selfish of their own matters

They were blind to the effect such actions had on a lost world.

An example

Suppose for a moment that you just purchased a 2009 Cadillac XTR-S. Your pride and joy. Whew, candy apple red, one hot glittering and gleaming car. You drive it to church on a sunny Sunday morning, you exit your car forget your Bible on the front seat, leave the driver's side door wide open and Sam and Samantha Smith, the poorest and perhaps the humblest people in our church, drive by in their 93 rustbucket Ford Taurus and clip the door of your XTR-S. I mean they don't just clip it, they turn it all the way around, sort of inside out, smashing it against the fender of your new Caddy.

Its their fault—your insurance says its his fault

Its your fault—his insurance says its your fault

Who decides?