

The Wrong Way to Right Wrongs

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 6:1-11.
- B. Lawsuits usually arise out of greed or covetousness.
- C. The problem is making things more important than people are.

II. Lawsuits among believers are foolish.

- A. It is an act of audacious boldness.
- B. It shows a lack of knowledge regarding the church's future status before the world.
 - 1. Paul is not putting down secular law systems.
 - 2. Human law has to do with superficial things.
- C. It shows a lack of knowledge regarding believers' status before angels--they will judge them.

III. Lawsuits among believers are shameful.

- A. One who sues a fellow believer defrauds his own brother.
- B. Lawsuits stoop to a lower level of judgment.
- C. A secular judge is not to be highly esteemed in matters belonging to believers.
- D. It is not right for Christians to give their rights away.
- E. To have lawsuits at all among one another is defeat for believers because the gospel will suffer.
- F. These matters brought for settlement cannot be that important in comparison to the loss that will result.
- G. The believer is to forsake his own rights.

IV. Lawsuits raise suspicions as to the spiritual states of those involved.

- A. Wronging of a brother through lawsuits raises the question whether the plaintiff has ever been justified by God.
- B. Conversion makes a visible difference in the life of a believer.

V. Paul ends on a positive note reminding the Corinthians that they used to be immoral and wrong people, but were no longer this way.

Application questions:

1. Why do you think lawsuits have become such a problem in our society?

2. What reasons does Paul give believers to avoid suing one another in public courts? Does he argue that the public courts are bad?

3. How have you seen conflict in the church handled in a positive way? How would you go about resolving church conflicts?
