



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Be Defrauded Not Defeated

Sunday, June 12, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

The Church's position in Christ calls her to settle disputes internally. For members to take internal matters to public courts is a defeat for the whole Church. In matters of materialism, it is better to be personally defrauded than to be spiritually defeated.

I. THE PROBLEM OF LAWSUITS IN THE CHURCH

Within the membership of the Church of Corinth, one brother is defrauded by another brother. The defrauded brother sues the defrauding brother and takes him before a civil magistrate. Paul is horrified that the Church is allowing these brothers to air their grievances in public. For Paul, taking a brother to court is a defeat for the whole church as well as for the two involved.

II. THE POSITION OF THE CHURCH AS IT RELATES TO SECULAR LAWSUITS

A. The Church Is Qualified to Handle Disputes Between Members Because of Her Position in Christ, 6:2-3.

- 1. The Church is capable of deciding over trivial cases because she will judge the world, 6:2.**
- 2. The Church is capable of judging the temporal matters of this life because she will rule over angels, 6:3.**

B. The Church Has the Authority and Responsibility to Handle Disputes Between Members Because of Her Position in Christ, 6:4-5.

1. Paul's rhetorical question in verse 4 suggests that the Church has authority to render judgment her internal disputes.

*“So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?” **Better rendering,** So if you have ordinary lawsuits, why do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church? (NET Bible)*

2. Paul's sarcastic question in verses 5 & 6 implies that the Church has the responsibility to settle her internal disputes.

“Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?”

3. It is clearly stated in verses 7 through 11 that the whole Church has been defeated by this Lawsuit.

- a. The Church is defeated by allowing the defrauding and the lawsuit in the first place, 6:7a.

Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another.

- b. The plaintiff is defeated by not embracing a Christ-like ethic, 6:7b.

Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

- c. The defendant is defeated by defrauding and embracing behavior that is not characteristic of future kingdom dwellers, 6:8-11.

8 On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren. 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

III. APPLICATION

A. Focus on Your Position in Christ When You are Defrauded by a Brother.

B. Bring Your Grievances with a Brother to the Church Leadership.

C. Humbly Accept being Wronged and the Defrauded If You Choose Not to Bring the Matter to the Church Leadership.

1. It is better to lose financially than to lose spiritually.

2. It is better to preserve the relationship with the Lord and the Church than to protect your financial rights and property

CONCLUSION: *Make Me A Stranger* by Mac Lynch

Make me a stranger on earth, dear Savior,
Make me a stranger more like Thee.
Help me keep my focus on heavenly treasures,
And not on earthly things may it be.

Lord, I've found myself loving earthly treasures:
Simple pleasures taking Your place.
Nothing can measure to heavenly treasures:
Hearing "Well done," and seeing Your face.

Lord, lead me onward as a pilgrim
Bound for heaven never to roam.
Make me a stranger on earth, dear Savior,
Till I see my heavenly home.