

Family Mediation

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

1. Do you often find yourself in arguments? Why or why not?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1. What is the *precise* issue that Paul is concerned about? Is it simply that the Corinthians are arguing?
3. Read through to the end of verse 6. How many times does Paul mention the fact that these arguments are being judged by unbelievers?
4. Why might that be a problem? Hint: think through Paul's concerns in the previous chapter, and look carefully for clues in this passage, especially 6:1, 6:4, 6:6.
5. Can you imagine a comparable scenario today where two Christians have an argument and a secular court uses ungodly logic or issues an ungodly ruling?
6. What does Paul suggest is the better way forward? How does Paul explain the competency of Christians to sort out their own disputes? Can you think of a famous scene in the Gospels where God's people failed to do this?
7. If churches are to demonstrate competency in this area, what virtues or skills might we need to foster?
8. Read verse 7. Why is the fact of litigation a sign that the Corinthians have 'already been defeated'? What approach does Paul suggest instead?
9. Have there been occasions recently where you could have allowed yourself to be wronged by a brother or sister? What is gained by allowing this to happen?

10. Are there limits to this kind of self-effacing behaviour? Is it ever ok to seek justice? What kind of dispute does Paul have in mind here? Hint: look back at verse 2.

11. What action does Paul condemn in v8? What else does the Bible say about 'tit-for-tat' behaviour? See Matt 5:38-42, Romans 12:17-21. Who gives us the ultimate example of this?

12. Pray for an increased ability to overlook wrongs and for our churches to be wise and fair places where disputes are dealt with in God honoring ways.

Questions for the whole family (focusing on 1 Corinthians 6:1-2, 7-8)

1. How many arguments do you get into each day?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-2. How does Paul want the Corinthians to solve their arguments? How confident is he that they can do this?
3. What skills might we need to solve arguments among ourselves?
4. Read verses 7-8. What does Paul want the Corinthians to consider next time they're in an argument? What does he want them to avoid? Do you think you could do this?