

October 25/26, 2008

Study Questions
Living Like Christians
When Winning is Still Losing
1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Do you think the unbelievers around you would generally perceive Christians to be people characterized by unity or conflict? Why?
2. Have you ever had a fellow Christian that you were in conflict with where you simply could not get the conflict resolved? At work? Neighborhood? Church? What was the result?
3. Have you ever wanted to put a disclaimer on another Christian to say “this person doesn’t represent who we are as Christians?”
4. Can you share a time when, for the sake of your testimony, you had to choose to allow yourself to be treated unfairly by another Christian? Why was it necessary for you to make that choice?

Bible Study

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6. What is the specific issue in Corinth Paul is dealing with? What is Paul’s concern? What is the reasoning behind his concern?
2. The specific issue in this text has to do with taking a fellow Christian to court. Does this mean we can’t ever take legal action against another Christian? When would it be appropriate and when would it be inappropriate to take another Christian to court?
3. What is the basic principle Paul is talking about and how does that apply beyond just what happens in a civil court?
4. Read 6:7-8. Why is winning still losing in this situation? What does Paul say is better for the sake of our witness? What does this mean to you in practical terms?
5. Compare with Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:38-48.
6. Read 6:9-11. The point Paul is making is that behavior flows out of identity. In a performance-based culture our behavior defines who we are. How is that different in a grace-based culture? (Compare to 1:1-9).
7. Paul is saying that to live like a Christian one must act in accordance with what is now true of him/her in Christ on the basis of grace. What does that mean based on what you’ve learned from 1 Corinthians 1-6?

Application

1. What is the principle Paul is teaching in 1 Corinthians 6:1-11? See if you can state it in one sentence?
2. Is there an area of conflict in your life right now with another believer? Based on what Paul has taught, what should you do about that conflict this week?
3. What are three practical suggestions for resolving conflict between believers in a way that doesn't negatively affect your testimony?