

1 Corinthians 6:6-8: "But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers! ...⁸ Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers."

➤ Consider Your _____ (6:6).

1 Corinthians 6:6: "But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers!"

John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 17:20-23: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

3. Disputes must be _____ through not _____ from.

1 Corinthians 6:4: "If you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!"

1 Corinthians 6:5: "Is there no one among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?"

UNHEALTHY RESPONSES:

HEALTHY RESPONSES:

RESPONSE #1: _____.

Matthew 5:21-26: "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."

RESPONSE #2: _____.

Matthew 18:15-20: "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

RESPONSE #3: _____.

Matthew 18:21-35: "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until

he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

RESPONSE #4: _____.

1 Corinthians 6:7-8: “The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸ Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

A spiritually healthy person seeks to work through problems, in a God honoring manner, in all areas of life.

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What dispute did the early church have in Acts 15:1-2? How was this situation resolved (Acts 15:1-21)? What lessons can be learned from this dispute and how the church handled it?

2. What were Paul and Barnabas in disagreement over in Acts 15:36-41? How did the disagreement get resolved? How did Paul's attitude change towards Mark (2 Timothy 4:11)? What does this tell you about leaders?

3. How do you handle disputes in your home, place of work, and church? Take time to review *the unhealthy* vs. *the healthy* ways of dealing with disputes to help you answer this question.

4. Do you consider SMC your family? Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 (1 = not at all & 10 = absolutely).

Not at All 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely

5. How do you think your answer to question #5 impacts your ability to deal with conflict and disputes with others in a healthy way?

6. Do you have someone at SMC that you need to be reconciled to? Do you have someone you need to forgive? Do you have someone you need to be restored to? Do you have someone you need to go to and make things right?

7. Why does Paul tell us to resolve our disputes internally? See point #2 in the message outline.

PRAYER

SERIES: “Life in the Father’s House”
MESSAGE: “A Family Affair” 1 Corinthians 6:1-8
Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 01.31.10

INTRODUCTION:

1 Corinthians 6:1-8: “If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴ Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! ⁵ I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? ⁶ But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers! ⁷ The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸ Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.”

1. Disputes take place in the _____ (6:1).

1 Corinthians 6:1: “*If any of you has a dispute with another...*”

2. Disputes in the _____ must stay in the _____.

1 Corinthians 6:1: “*If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?*”

THREE REASONS

➤ Consider Your _____ (6:2-3).

1 Corinthians 6:2-3: “*Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?* And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

➤ Consider Your _____ (6:6-8).