

## *“Why Not Rather Be Wronged”*

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*“Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?” (1 Cor 6:7)*

Read 1 Cor 6:1-8

There is no question we live in a day and age where personal lawsuits and liability have gone awry. Greed and unethical behavior have reduced us to a nation of pettiness and personal affront. When we speak of inalienable rights, we believe them to be gifts given instead of commodities gained. We are a spiritually bankrupt people. We are immature and insolent in our inability to cope with inconvenience, waiting, and impingement. We deserve it . . . now! There is no sense of humility, teach-ability, and charity.

God establishes **government** (Rom 13:1ff) to “govern”, not to guarantee. Yet, the government does assist in managing a society marked by order and structure, rule and regulation. Within the Church of God, we no longer have any sense of how we are to regulate and order His people. The passage before us would appear to strongly suggest that as the people of God we are enabled to settle matters of dispute between brethren who are exchanging blows and contentions. Yet, like many actions, we the Church of God have abdicated our God given mandates and responsibilities to either the world or other agencies outside of the local church.

The Corinthian’s failure was two-fold. First, they did not bring their disputes to the church to settle (vv. 5, 6). And second, they were suing each other. Both were statements of shame and defeat (v. 7).

The bottom line was that we should embrace suffering wrong and being defrauded rather than to cause wrong or be the one who defrauds another (vv. 7, 8). To defraud an individual is to break one of the commandments given to the nation of Israel in Exodus 20:1-26. Our Lord quoted the commandment to remind the rich young ruler of what constitutes moral behavior (Mk 10:19).

No one wishes to invite hardship and inconvenience. We loath the idea of being used and abused, of being mistreated and taken advantage of, yet this is the very essence of our calling as servants of the most high. Jesus stated such an ideology like this, yet we are quick to react and demand our rights, to insist, to protect what is ours and to take what is not

Matthew 23:11-12 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

Do we see ourselves as servants or are we still living like masters? Jesus embodied a servant ideology.

*Continued on the other side...*

Philippians 2:5-8 “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

In a fellowship filled with a divisive, disgruntled, and disagreeable people, Paul’s exhortation worms its way into their arrogant and haughty attitude. Their pride is to be broken and restoration is to take place. It is only when we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, the spirit of Christ, that we will have humility, teach-ability, and charity. The way of grace is always the way of peace and rest. May we pray for the embodiment of Christ through our earthen vessels and in our midst as a fellowship. May we live in the triumph of a reigning grace.