

# Dealing with Disputes Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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**Key Truth:** Saints of God, among one another, deal with disputes differently.

As Christians, we have been forgiven and saved by Jesus Christ. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We are God's own Children. Yet that does not mean we do not get into scrapes with one another now and then. Until Christ returns or calls us home, Christians are going to rub one another the wrong way. How do we deal with disputes?

## **DISCUSS**

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Dealing with Disputes**.

## **DIG IN**

### **1. Defining the Dispute.**

**Read Romans 13:3-4 and 1 Peter 2:14:** What clues does Paul give in 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 that suggest he is not talking about criminal matters?

In this passage, Paul appears to be referring to minor, interpersonal disputes between Christians. State some words or phrases in this passage that support this conclusion:

### **2. Qualifications to Judge the Dispute.**

There are three conditions that Paul brings up that show that unbelievers are not qualified to judge minor interpersonal disputes between Christians: 1) they are "unrighteous" (v. 1), 2) they are not citizens (heirs) of God's Kingdom (v. 9), and 3) they have "no standing in the church" (v. 4). Do you agree with these conclusions? Why or why not?

Who is qualified to judge such disputes (see verse 1)? On what basis are they qualified (see verses 2-3)?

### **3. The Basis for Dismissing the Dispute.**

What do you think are some criteria that would determine whether or not a dispute should be dealt with or simply dismissed? On what occasions should a formal resolution be pursued?

**Read verse 11:** In what ways can reminding ourselves of these glorious truths enable us to dismiss our grievances against another believer?

## **DO**

Share with the group a time when you worked through a dispute with another believer. How was it handled? Based on what you learned from this passage, how could you have handled that dispute differently, if at all?