

By Our Love

1 Corinthians 6.1-11

Intro: How does the world know that we are Christian? By the title you read, you are already singing our Response Song in your head. And yet does the world know we are Christian by our love? Perhaps, but what does love look like? Let's read the Passage together.

If you asked the average Corinthian, what would he answer? That the people whom God loves, who love Jesus are arrogant, selfish, boastful, blind and foolish? Or that they are not loving at all? So what is true love, defined by God?

Our Call to Worship – Jesus dying on the cross is greatest example of love while we were unlovable. And yet, they were defeated. Their witness was shot. Everyone knew: fighting, law suits, taking it before the courts. Why a problem?

If Jesus is the answer, and as Paul says in 1.7 that they have everything they need, then why do they need the courts? Why are they even suing one another?

Church is almost defeated today. Said our church is known for bickering. History of Church Bickering/splits. (1st United Methodist split 3 times, 1 Baptist Split 4 times, 1st Christian had 2 major splits, and few others.) Still hope, though. How do we come back from defeat that Paul talks about in our passage? Change how we view the Church: From Social Club no different from Elks or Soroptomist to a family that seeks a singular mission: Spreading God's love... How?

1. Watch Our Witness

- a. Defining Value – What is it worth? To be cheated? Story of 2 preachers at McDonald's. Argued over paying a quarter for extra sauce.
- b. More to home, how do we react with one another? Not just within 1st Christian, but with anyone claiming to be a follower of Christ?
- c. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. You want your way, then you should want your neighbor to get his way.
- d. Move to 4.12 & 13, "bless for cursing" endure persecution, give character reference when we are slandered.
- e. 6.7 be unjustly treated, be cheated.

2. Walk Away from World

- a. 5.10 – not remove from the world, but not let the world influence us. If we have the answers, then let us be the answer.
- b. Corinthians sought non-Christians for help with matters that should be for the elders to decide. But comes back to yielding.
- c. Why? Because we were washed, sanctified and justified in Jesus by the Spirit of God...And this is a picture not of defeat, but victory. Not superior, but by His grace, we overcame the muck and mire, and we wish to share this same hope and love. Then the world will know.