

# MESSAGE GUIDE

## REBOOT: The Sin of Relational Inflexibility

1 Corinthians 6:1-11



March 25, 2018

### CONNECT

- Who in your life (apart from God) has offered you the most grace, understanding and forgiveness? How has that impacted you?

### STUDY

This week's message had us in 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, a section of teaching where Paul challenged the Corinthian Christians to work out their relational struggles among themselves and within the church. It seems the Corinthians had gotten into the habit of dragging each other to court, rather than sort out their issues with advice from spiritual leaders or the Word. Read through the passage, and then process by working through the following questions:

- Look at verse 1. What was Paul's gripe according to this verse? Why did the Corinthians' choice for handling conflict make Paul feel so frustrated?
- At the very end of verse 2, what word does Paul use to describe the types of cases the Corinthians were arguing about? What does this mean about their disagreements?
- To make the point that Christians ought to be able to judge one another's conflicts, what does Paul write in verses 2 and 3? Who will Christians judge in the future? Do you know of any scriptural references that affirm the fact that in heaven we will indeed rule and judge with Jesus?

- What advice regarding dealing with conflict does Paul offer in verse 7? Why is his counsel so counter-cultural? How can suffering an offense be better than fighting an offense?

- In verses 9-10, Paul writes out a list of sins that keep a person from a relationship with God. How does verse 11 offer hope to all of us who are stuck in our sins? What does Jesus do for us according to verse 10?

### APPLY

- Why was the fact that the Corinthians were suing one another so bad? (To the Corinthians such actions made sense, but to Paul it was a major failure regarding their spiritual lives!)
- In what ways does Paul's counsel in verse 7 makes sense? Conversely, why is Paul's counsel so hard for many of us to practice?
- Take a look at Matthew 5:38-42 and John 13:34-35. How might this teaching of Jesus relate to what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6?
- What do you think it says to the world when Christians can't seem to get along or solve their disputes? Have you ever known of someone who became closed to the Gospel because of how a church conducts itself?
- Why can we be prone to having a heart that is overly competitive and unyielding towards others? Why would this qualify as sinful?