

1 CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

SEE YOU IN COURT

Speaker: Ronnie Norman

I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights



I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

1. Called by Jesus & Caught in Conflict

1. Called by Jesus & Caught in Conflict
 - A. Where two or three gather in Jesus' name, there will be conflict.

I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

1. Called by Jesus & Caught in Conflict
 - A. Where two or three gather in Jesus' name, there will be conflict.
 - B. Too much conflict is dysfunctional.

1. Called by Jesus & Caught in Conflict
 - A. Where two or three gather in Jesus' name, there will be conflict.
 - B. Too much conflict is dysfunctional.
 - C. Too little conflict is dysfunctional.

I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

Compete... Collaborate... Compromise...
Avoid... Accommodate

1. Called by Jesus & Caught in Conflict
 - D. Because of who we are in Christ, dispute resolution can be one of our strengths.

I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

¹ If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people?

² Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

*³ Do you not know that we will judge angels?
How much more the things of this life!*

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management
 - A. Behavioral Issue = suing fellow believers in open courts

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management

A. Behavioral Issue = suing fellow believers in open courts

B. Underlying Values Issue = my rights supersede Christ & His Church

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned 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?

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

⁶ But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management
 - C. Unresolved conflict among Christians damages our influence.

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management

- C. Unresolved conflict among Christians damages our influence.
- D. There is a huge difference between personal grievances and criminal matters.

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management

- E. Christians should try to resolve personal matters “in-house” and not public courts.

Matthew 18:15-17

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

Matthew 18:15-17

17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

Be careful to not become a W.M.E. = well meaning enabler.

I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

Focus on process and not results

- Go in private
- Take two or three
- Go to church leaders
- Consider relationship altered but not severed

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

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 and sisters.

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

⁹ Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management

- F. It's no small matter to defraud a fellow believer.

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management

- F. It's no small matter to defraud a fellow believer.
- G. When Christians pursue healthy conflict resolution — you stand out like stars in a dark universe.

2. A Case Study in Conflict Management

- H. We accept that pure justice never happens in this world.

I CORINTHIANS

Great Church Fights

www.peacemaker.net