

## **Disputes**

1 Corinthians 5 - 6

by Don Falkos

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### The Problem:

A man was having sexual relations with his stepmother.

### Paul's Response:

I can hardly believe this! Even pagans would be appalled. Yet you seem proud of yourselves, which is almost as bad as what this man is doing. Don't you realize how this is already eating away at the core of who you are as a community? You have no other option – remove this man from your fellowship. Do it now!

### The Problem:

Disputes were breaking out among believers, and they were filing lawsuits against each other in the civil courts.

### Paul's Response:

Isn't there anyone among you wise enough to settle your disputes? You are embarrassing yourselves and our Lord by airing your dirty laundry in public. If a fellow believer wrongs you, you should accept the wrong, and then seek justice within the community of believers.

### The Problem:

Some of the Corinthian believers were being overindulgent in a variety of ways.

### Paul's Response:

You may say, "I am allowed to do anything" – but not everything is good for you. You may say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food" – but overeating is not good for you. You may NOT say, "Our bodies were made for immorality" – our bodies were made for the Lord and are now parts of the body of Christ. Should you take your body, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and unite it with a prostitute? No, no, no! Run from sexual sin and from anything that adversely affects your body. You don't own yourself. God bought you at a very high price! So honor God with your body.