

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:1-7
Topic: Conflict. Perspective.
Study: First Corinthians
Week: 24
Series: 1 of 3

Focal Point Radio Ministries
February 15 & 16, 2003
Message # 03-05
Pastor Mike

part 1 Your Next Argument

The Issues are Smaller Than You Think



1. Ask: _____ (vv.1-3)

2. Ask: _____ (vv.6-7a)

3. Ask: _____ (v.7b)

1 Cor. 6:1-7

¹ If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴ Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account 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? ⁶ But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers! 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? (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. Think about the disagreements that have put a strain on your relationships with other Christians. In what way did these disputes snowball into something bigger than they started out to be? Describe the progression. What were some of the factors that contributed to their growth?

Read Proverbs 15:18 and 19:11. What *specifically* could you have done or said that might have averted the escalating contention?

2. Acquiring a bigger perspective regarding the issues that spark our quarrels and arguments is not always easy—it takes a little time and a fair amount of mental effort. What practical plan can you put in place that will prompt you to step back and focus on the issues that are most important to God the next time you sense an argument brewing?

3. Of the three questions posed by our passage this weekend, which is most difficult for you to consider? What steps can you take to work at obtaining more of this kind of perspective?

4. If you are a parent, how do you feel when your children argue and fight? How can that analogous situation help motivate you to work harder to resolve your conflict with a “brother” or “sister” in Christ?

5. What issues do you need to forgive? Toward whom do you need to express a gracious, magnanimous and Christlike attitude?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Lev.5-6 & Prov.3

Monday

Lev.7-8 & Prov.4

Tuesday

Lev.9-10 & Prov.5

Wednesday

Lev.11-12 & Prov.6

Thursday

Lev.13-14 & Prov.7

Friday

Lev.15-16 & Prov.8

Saturday

Lev.17-18 & Prov.9

Here are some resources to help you think through the issues of your next argument.

Adams, Jay. ***Sibling Rivalry in the Household of God***, Accent Books, 1988.

_____. ***From Forgiven to Forgiving***. Calvary Press, 1997.

Carson, D. A. ***Love in Hard Places***. Crossway Books, 2002.

Flynn, Leslie. ***When the Saints Come Storming In***. Victor Books, 1988.

Huttenlocker, Keith, ***Conflict and Caring: Preventing, Managing, & Resolving Conflict in the Church***. Zondervan, 1988.

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. ***Ephesians 4:1-16. An Exposition on Christian Unity***. Baker Books, 1998.

MacArthur, John. ***The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness***. Crossway Books, 1998.

Murray, Andrew. ***Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness***. Bethany House, 2001.

Sande, Corlette. ***The Young Peacemaker: Teaching Students to Respond to Conflict God's Way***. Shepherd Press, 1997.

Sande, Ken. ***The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflicts***. Baker Books, 1997.