

Warners Chapel Church of Christ

8999 Lasater Road
Clemmons, North Carolina 27012
Telephone 336-766-6078

Preachers: Paul Kirkpatrick
Frank Shepard

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

FEBRUARY 22, 2009

Litigation between Christians in Civil Courts **[1 Corinthians 6:1-8]**

It is quite possible that I Corinthians 6:1-8 has been misapplied from the time Paul first penned the epistle until the present day. When a misapplication occurs, it may be the result of a twisting of scripture: "as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures" [II Peter 3:16]. While there may be little that can be accomplished relative to those who twist the scriptures on purpose in order to justify their actions, this article may be helpful to those who simply misunderstand what Paul is dealing with.

"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?" [I Cor. 6:1]. The word "dare" in verse one implies that when Christians appear before a worldly court [instead of the saints] in order to settle differences between themselves, they are acting in a way that is contrary to the will of Christ. Although worldly courts are not altogether "unrighteous", they are considered unrighteous when compared with God the supreme judge. Christians should not have to contend with one another, but if a brother sins against another, Jesus gives the rules for resolving these matters in Matthew 18:15-20. By neglecting the law of Christ and seeking resolution of differences in a worldly court, Christians transgress God's law and bring unnecessary reproach upon the Lord's church.

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?" [I Cor. 6:2-3]. Through the

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preaching of God's word the saints will judge the world [and angels] in the sense that the world will be judged by whether or not it conforms to the eternal principles embedded in the Word. Not that differences between Christians are unimportant, but when compared to matters such as eternal life in Heaven, matters "that pertain to this life" are considered to be the "smallest" of the two. Furthermore, matters "that pertain to this life" cover a broad range of subjects and are not limited to money matters as some claim.

"If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother and that before unbelievers!" [I Cor. 6:4-6]. Verses 4-6 are a sharp criticism of Christians who take "things pertaining to this life" before worldly courts comprised of unbelievers [who are esteemed less than brethren] instead of the church. The church is capable of resolving their differences by utilizing the truths of God's word.

"Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!" [I Corinthians 6:7-8]. Verses 7-8 indicate that regardless of the judgment, Christians should accept wrong instead of being involved in an utter failure by appearing before worldly courts in order to settle differences "concerning things pertaining to this life."

However, in some situations it would not be wrong for a Christian to appear before a worldly court with another Christian. Example # 1: Jesus gives the innocent partner in a marriage the right to a legal divorce from an adulterous spouse [Matthew 19:9]. Example # 2: If one Christian does sue another, the defendant has the right to a legal defense. Paul and Jesus defended themselves against false charges [Acts 20:1; 25:11-12 and John 18:33-28; 19:7-11]. Example # 3: If one Christian witnessed another Christian committing a criminal act, reporting the criminal act and testifying in court would be a moral and legal responsibility [Romans 13:1]. No Christian has the right to break the law and then deny another Christian the right to appear with them in court based upon I Corinthians 6:1-8.

Differences between Christians "concerning things pertaining to this life" can be resolved before the saints if all parties are totally committed to Christ and in submission to His will. Litigation between Christians in civil courts brings reproach upon the church of our Lord and should be avoided if at all possible.

ELDERS

Read the New Testament in the Year 2009

Feb. 23 - Mark 4:1-20
Feb. 24 - Mark 4:21-41
Feb. 25 - Mark 5:1-20
Feb. 26 - Mark 5:21-43



Feb. 27 - Mark 6:1-29
Feb. 28 - Mark 6:30-56
Mar. 1 - Mark 7:1-13



OUR SICK:

Bob Hoots was recently admitted to the Baptist Hospital with medical problems. He has since been released from the hospital this past Wednesday.

Todd Hinson's mother, **Faye Hinson**, was released from the hospital on Thursday. She is now in Room C410 at the Rehab Center at Oak Forest (formerly Oak Summit) for approximately 3 weeks depending on her recuperation progress.

Carmen Parker's husband, **Charles Parker**, will undergo surgery on February 27th at the High Point Regional Hospital. Please remember him in your prayers.

Brandon and **Tara Roy** and **Cannon Harper** were reported ill this past Wednesday evening.

Don Richards is in considerable pain at this time and is unable to attend worship services. He is in need of surgery but his health conditions prevent him from undergoing the necessary surgery at this time.

Patty Sheets' father, **Lee Bailey**, suffered a heart attack last week. He is presently being treated with medication.



PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR THE CURRENT WARNERS CHAPEL PRAYER LIST.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Hilda Hauser's address is:

100 Breckindale Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Telephone: 765-5567

Jane Shepard's cell phone number is: 529-9833

PLEASE MAKE THESE CHANGES IN YOUR DIRECTORY.

WELCOMB

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO REMAIN FOR A "COVERED DISH" FELLOWSHIP MEAL SPONSORED THIS MORNING BY ZONE 4.

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

Feb. 24 - Sewing for Nicaragua will begin at 9 a.m. Please bring a dish (enough to share with students).

Feb. 24- Youth Group Devotional - Juniors and Seniors at 7 p.m.

Feb. 26 - 50 and Over Bible Class at 10:30 a.m.

AREA EVENTS:

Feb. 28 - Ladies Day at the Cary church of Christ. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the foyer for anyone who wishes to attend.

Mar. 1 - Kannapolis Church of Christ Open House-see bulletin board

Mar. 14 - 11th Annual Carolina Men's Fellowship at Gold Hill Rd. Church of Christ - See bulletin board.

April 25 - Charlotte Ave. 8th Annual Youth Rally

JARS NEEDED FOR LADIES' DAY PROJECT

Please bring in any spare *clean* (preferably wide-mouth) canning jars you may have and place in box in the foyer.

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Feb 15, 2009

Sunday Bible Study	171
Sunday Morning Worship	216
Contribution for Feb 15, 2009	\$6,638
Daily Adult Bible Readers:	26
Chapters Read:	549
Daily Children Bible Readers:	1
Chapters Read:	31
Sunday Evening	155
Wed. Evening Bible Study 2-18-09	

**LORD'S
DAY
APPOINT-
MENTS
3-1-09**

Serving the Lord's Table for MARCH:

**Preparing Communion for March:
Making Announcements on Sunday:
Making Announcements on Wednesday:**

SHERRILL STEWART

Earl Porter Jake Thomason
Bob Plunk David Prongay
Gaye Carothers
Joe Everett
Mark Minor

DEVOTIONS:		OPENING PRAYER:		SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READER
Scripture	Mark Roy	Morning	Frank Shepard	A.M. - Clayton Workman	A.M. - Bill Carothers
Song Leader	Steve Tesh	Evening	Kenny Brown	P.M. - Ryan Pickens	P.M. - Brad Hoots
Prayer	D. C. Mock			Wed. -Ryan Pickens	
NURSERY (0-2 1/2):		NURSERY (2 1/2-4):		TAPE MONITOR:	FELLOWSHIP MEALS:
Morning	Gina Strickland	Morning	Debbie Southern	Chad Southern	Zone 1
Evening	Sandy Warner	Evening	Jean Rose		
Opening and Closing Building					
Sunday	March 1		Andy Santiago		
Wednesday	March 4		Andy Santiago		



BIRTHDAYS - Feb. 23-March 1, 2009

<i>Frank Holder</i>	- Feb. 23	<i>Chad Southern</i>	- Feb. 24
<i>Elwood Flinchum</i>	- Feb. 23	<i>Linda Flinchum</i>	- Feb. 26
<i>Tony Minor</i>	- Feb. 23	<i>Lorene Brown</i>	- Feb. 27
<i>Lorie Rose</i>	- Feb. 23		

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - Nursery open for small children during all services.

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:50 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service 7:00 PM

GBN PROGRAM - Monday-Friday at 9 -10 a.m. - (Various Speakers) on Cable 75
"GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE" at 10:30 p.m. week nights on Cable 8
SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
Clemmons, NC 27012

ELDERS

Steve Martin
David Moore
Tim Allen
Joe Everett

DEACONS

Steve Tesh
Randy Warner
Tommy Rose
Keith Warner
Andy Santiago
Mark Minor
Todd Hinson