

1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel
in Community

WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

Study 6

THE GOSPEL AND LAW SUITS

I Corinthians 6:1-12

1 Corinthians 6:1-12 (ESV) When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! 4 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, 6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? 7 To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. 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.

THE PRECIPITATING EVENT

1 Corinthians 6:1 (ESV) When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?

SERIES OF RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

“a question you ask, that is not intended to get an answer, but just a question you ask to create an impact or to make a point”



ALL ANSWERS ARE NO!

Are you crazy?

Like that ..how to
challenge?

Waaah ..so smart ahh..

1 Cor 6:1 does he dare go to law before
the unrighteous instead of the saints?

How dare you do this!!!

QUESTION 2-3

1 Corinthians 6:2 (ESV) Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

Of course not!

QUESTION 4

1 Corinthians 6:3 (ESV) Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

Of course we are !

QUESTION 5

1 Corinthians 6:4 (ESV) So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?

Of course not!

QUESTION 5

1 Corinthians 6:5-6 (ESV) I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, 6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

Of course there are

QUESTION 7

1 Corinthians 6:7 (ESV) To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?

No matter who wins we all loose!

QUESTION OF STANDING

1 Corinthians 6:2-5 (ESV) Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! 4 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? 5

THERE ARE RESOURCES WITHIN THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 6:5-6 (ESV) I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, 6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE

1 Corinthians 6:7-8 (ESV) To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

A bronze statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding scales of justice, with the word "BACKGROUND" overlaid in white text. The statue is depicted in a classical style, wearing a draped garment and a blindfold. The scales are held in her left hand, and a sword is visible in her right hand. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

BACKGROUND

Civil Law

1. When one of you has a grievance against another,
5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers

7-8 Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

Criminal Law

Romans 13:1 (ESV) Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

1 Peter 2:13-14 (ESV) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

HIGH SOCIAL RANK



slave vs. master,
client vs. patron,
citizen vs.
magistrate

Law suit

Rich could sue the poor

LOWER SOCIAL RANK






SECULAR MAGISTRATES AND JURISTS

- Notoriously Corrupt
- Favoured the elite

- 1 Cor 6:1 b... does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?

CONTEXT

Private disputes regarding money or property between fellow believers who are members of the same church in a first-century Roman context in which the social elite bring cases before corrupt magistrates.

A bronze statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding scales of justice. The statue is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left. She is wearing a blue blindfold and a blue robe. The scales of justice are held in her right hand, and a sword is held in her left hand. The background is a light, textured wall.

**IT IS WRONG TO
WEAPONIZE THE LAW**

1 Corinthians 6:7-8 (ESV) To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

MOTIVES

Retaliating one-upmanship — humiliating one's adversary and proving oneself to be socially superior

Results in factionalism and rivalry, not unity

WARNING

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV) Or do you not know that the **unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?**

Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor men who practice homosexuality**, 10 nor thieves, nor the **greedy**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Hebrews 10:26-27 (ESV) For if we go on sinning
deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the
truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27
but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire
that will consume the adversaries.

PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

Matthew 13:38-40 (ESV) The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

WARNINGS

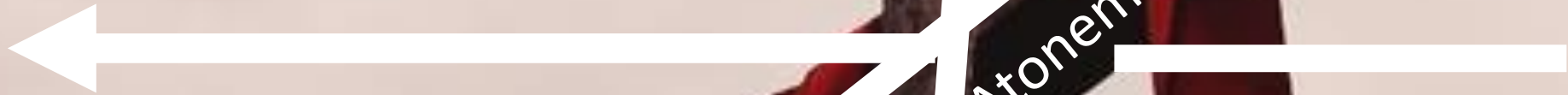
Warning to Corinthians if they persist in the same evils as “the wicked” they are in the same danger of not inheriting the kingdom.

THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV) And such were some of you. 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.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out



ATONEMENT-INSIDE OUT

1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV) And such were some of you. 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.



1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV) Or
Fear
do you not know that the
Trepidation
unrighteous will not inherit
the Kingdom of God?
Resolve



**WASHED SANCTIFIED
AND JUSTIFIED BY
JESUS AND SPIRIT**

**UNRIGHTEOUS WILL
NOT INHERIT THE
KINGDOM OF GOD**

MOTIVATION



**HOLINESS
MAKING MOST OF
TIME**

REPENTANCE

MOTIVATION

HOW I PROCESS

- Cannot take the way I live for granted..
- Examine it
- Look at what it cost my Saviour
- Look at where I am now..washed
- Look at my vision for the future..holy and pleasing to Him

THE PROBLEM WITH LAW SUITS

- Lacks eternal foresight
- Discredits the testimony of the church

APPLICATION

Can a Christian sue another Christian based on this passage?

General Principle : Fellow Church Members Should Settle Private Legal Disputes as a General Principle
Matthew 18

Wisdom Principle: Christians have an obligation to maintain justice so confronting the brother might lead to repentance and restorative justice..forgiveness and reconciliation

CHRISTIANS WHO SUE

If I stand up for my legal rights in this instance, might I not be protecting the rights of other Christians who could be adversely affected if I cave in?

Is my stand a point of principle or is this just a rationalisation?

APPLICATION

Can a Christian defend himself when sued by another Christian based on this passage?

Yes, this passage is about attempts to defraud
However the first recourse is to seek Christian arbitration

APPLICATION

Can the church defend itself when sued by another Christian or non Christian based on this passage?

Yes, this passage is about attempts to defraud
However the first recourse is to seek Christian arbitration

- Christian in church should cheat you of your money?
- If he does not fulfill a contractual agreement or obligation with you?
- If he should crash into your car? Christian.
- Your ex-husband, who is now not paying the alimony?



**CALVARY CHAPEL
COSTA MESA CALIFORNIA**



PS CHURCH SMITH

Grew his church from 25
members to 1000 locations

Family members sue the
church claiming they
commandeered his ministry
and denied him emergency
medical care, denied
insurance money to widow
LA times 20 Sept 2014

SENIOR PS CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA



- **Brian Bordersen**
- **Son in law of Ps
Chuck Smith**