

• 1 CORINTHIANS •

FOOLISHNESS OR POWER

1

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (CSB)
 1 If any of you has a dispute against another, how dare you take it to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

2

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (CSB)
 2 Or don't you know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the trivial cases?
 3 Don't you know that we will judge angels—how much more matters of this life?

3

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (CSB)

⁴ So if you have such matters, do you appoint as your judges those who have no standing in the church?

⁵ I say this to your shame! Can it be that there is not one wise person among you who is able to arbitrate between fellow believers?

4

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (CSB)

⁶ Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers!

⁷ As it is, to have legal disputes against one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

5

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (CSB)

⁸ Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers!

⁹ Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males,

6

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (CSB)

¹⁰ no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom.

7

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (CSB)

¹¹ And some of you used to be like this. 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.

8



9

1 Corinthians 6:1 (CSB)

If any of you has a dispute against another, how dare you take it to **court** before the **unrighteous**, and not before the saints?

10

1 Corinthians 6:2 (CSB)

Or don't you know that the saints will **judge** the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to **judge** the trivial cases?

11

1 Corinthians 6:3 (CSB)

Don't you know that we will **judge angels**—how much more matters of this life?

12

“The destiny of redeemed men and women—to one day be higher than the angels and to even sit in judgment of them—must greatly annoy a certain high angel in heaven. He did not want to serve an inferior creature now, and did not want that inferior creature to be raised up higher than even he...

13

So, he rebelled against God, and is determined to keep as much of humanity as possible from sitting in judgment of *himself*. We can imagine the perverse, proud pleasure Satan takes over every soul that goes to hell: *‘They won’t sit in judgment over me!’*
~ David Guzik

14

1 Corinthians 6:4-5 (CSB)

⁴ So if you have such matters, do you appoint as your judges those who have no standing in the church?

⁵ I say this to your shame! Can it be that there is not one **wise** person among you who is able to arbitrate between fellow believers?

15



16

1 Corinthians 6:6 (CSB)
Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers!

17

1 Corinthians 6:7 (CSB)
As it is, to have legal disputes against one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be *wronged*? Why not rather be *cheated*?

18

Paul's primary concern is the gospel, not a person's rights.

19

You can win your dispute, but lose your testimony.

20

Matthew 18:15 (CSB)

"If your **brother** sins against you, go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother."

21

Step 1: Go directly to the person who has offended you.

22

It's way easier to talk ABOUT someone you have a problem with, than to talk TO someone about the problem

23

Matthew 18:16 (CSB)

"But if he won't listen, take one or two others with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established."

24

Step 2: Widen the circle.

25

The restoration of the relationship
is more important than proving
you are right.

26

Matthew 18:17 (CSB)
"If he doesn't pay attention to them,
tell the church."

27

Step 3: Approach church leadership.

28

Matthew 18:21-22 (CSB)

²¹ Then Peter approached (Jesus) and asked, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?"
²² "I tell you, not as many as seven," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven."

29

Our forgiveness must be limitless.

30

As an American,
dying to your "rights"
is one of the surest signs that
you're living for a
different kingdom.

31

1 Peter 3:14-15 (CSB)

¹⁴ But even if you should *suffer for righteousness*, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated,
¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to *anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.*

32

What if we loved unconditionally,
hated sin uncompromisingly, and
pursued holiness wholeheartedly?

33

1 Corinthians 6:8 (CSB)

Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers!

34

The world must not see the church as just another battlefield, but the field hospital to which the wounded may find healing.

35

Civil litigation in the church is destructive for four main reasons:

1) It causes disunity and pain in the body of Christ that can spread like a poison or an infection.

36

Disunity in the body of Christ is an infection that must not be ignored. It must be removed before it bursts.

37

Civil litigation in the church is destructive for four main reasons:

2) It implies that the wisdom of people outside the church have more wisdom than those inside the church.

38

Civil litigation in the church is destructive for four main reasons:

3) There is shame that comes from having unbelievers see all the church's dirty laundry.

39

Civil litigation in the church is destructive for four main reasons:

4) Suing each other shows you care more about being vindicated in court, and potentially the money, than you care about preserving relationships with your spiritual, eternal family.

40

1 Corinthians 6:9 (CSB)

Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom?

41

"If a Christian can cheat and defraud his brothers without conscience, it may be fairly asked if he is a Christian at all."

~ David Guzik

42

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (CSB)

⁹ Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, ¹⁰ no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom.

43



44

“The nature of sin is that it deceives us into thinking that it is not that serious. Paul pleads with the Corinthians not to allow deception to dilute the severity of what they are doing.”
~ Andrew Wilson

45

1 Corinthians 6:11 (CSB)

And some of you *used to be like this*.

46

1 Corinthians 6:11 (CSB)

And some of you used to be like this.
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.

47

What the Holy Trinity does for us:

1) He washes us.

48

Titus 3:5 (CSB)

...he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the **washing** of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

49

What the Holy Trinity does for us:

- 1) He washes us.
- 2) He sanctified us.

50

Acts 26:18 (CSB)

...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are **sanctified by faith in me.**

51

What the Holy Trinity does for us:

- 1) He washes us.
- 2) He sanctified us.
- 3) He justified us.

52

Romans 3:23-24 (CSB)

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;
²⁴ they are *justified* freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

53

- 1) He washes us (cleansing)
- 2) He separates us (sanctification)
- 3) He puts us in the right pile (justification)

54

"We are all washed and waiting."
~ Wesley Hill

55

Most merciful God, we confess that we
have sinned against you in thought,
word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole
heart; we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves.

56

We have compromised and we have
condoned sin both in our hearts and in
the church.

We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent.

57

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
for the sake of your gospel, have mercy
on us and forgive us; that we may
delight in your will, walk in your ways,
and truly be the light of the world to
which you have called us.

To the glory of your Name. Amen.
