

Supreme Courts for Saints

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Litigious
- You might not know this - State courts here in the United States handle more than 60 million cases each year...
- ...which span a diverse array of legal matters - from family disputes to traffic tickets.
- Not only that - but - there more than 50 million lawsuits filed every year - here in the United States of America.
- According to the statistics - every American will be sued five times over the course of their lives.
- And while there is no reliable data - regarding how many of these cases are nothing more than frivolous filings...
- ...I've see enough Judge Judy to assure you that - Americans are ready to sue others - over nothing.
- That being the case - we should pay careful attention to Paul's perspective - considering litigious Christians.

II. Outline

● Points

- Court
- Here in our text today - - we find Paul - encouraging Christians to bring their legal disputes...

- ...before the supreme courts of the Christian church - so the Saints of God can settle these civil issues.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...the Supreme Court of the Saints should establish Righteousness
 2. ...the Supreme Court of the Saints should endorse Truthfulness
 3. ...the Supreme Court of the Saints should encourage Forgiveness
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 6...
 - ...where we find Paul - addressing those who were seeking secular courts - in order to address their legal issues.

III. Righteousness

● Set up

• Context

- As we make our way to the sixth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- It'll first help us to remember that - Paul began this book - by correcting the carnal Christians who were causing contentions - at the church in Corinth.
- Then - after addressing those who were dividing the disciples - over disputes about which leaders were best...
- ...he went on to challenge those who were failing to judge the brother who was engaging in sexual immorality.
- Now - here in our text today - we find Paul - correcting the Christians who were dividing the disciples of Christ...

- ...as they sought the secular courts in Corinth - to settle their legal disputes with each other.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 6 - look with me beginning there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

1Co 6:2 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?

1Co 6:3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

1Co 6:4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

1Co 6:5 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?

1Co 6:6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

1Co 6:7 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?

1Co 6:8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

• Saints

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - shifting his attention - from those who felt like they didn't have the right to judge others...
- ...to the litigious Christians who were quick to seek help from the secular courts - in order to sue the Saints of God.
- And just to be clear - we should take a moment to consider the meaning of the word - Saints - found there in verses 1 and 2.
- The reason why is because - the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church would have us to believe that...

- ...the Saints of God are a subset of Christians - who are canonized as Saints...
- ...but only after a rigorous process of investigation and verification that can only begin after their death.
- Process
 - According to the Roman Catholic Church - the canonization process begins after the death of a Catholic - whom people regard as holy.
 - More often than not - this process starts many years after death in order to give perspective on the candidate.
 - Then - the local bishop investigates the candidate's life and writings for heroic virtue - martyrdom - and orthodoxy of doctrine.
 - And after a panel of theologians at the Vatican approves the candidate for canonization...
 - ...the pope then proclaims the candidate to be a venerable Saint.
 - And what this means is that - there are no living Saints in the Roman Catholic Church - they're all dead.
- Paul
 - With that being the case - there should be no doubt that - the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church have failed to realize that...
 - ...Paul not only used the title - Saint - in reference to those who were already in Heaven...
 - ...but - he used the same Greek word - in reference to every born again believer - serving in the church.
 - For example - it's in Romans chapter 1 - where Paul referred to all the believers in Rome - as those who were called - SAINTS.

- And in Ephesians chapter 1 - Paul also addressed that letter - to the SAINTS who were in Ephesus.
- In Philippians chapter 1 - Paul addressed that letter to all the SAINTS in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi.
- And in Colossians chapter 1 - Paul addressed that epistle - To the SAINTS and faithful brethren in Christ - in Colossea.

- 1 Corinthians

- I should also remind you that - it was back in the beginning of this epistle - where Paul declared...

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

- It's here in the second verse of 1st Corinthians chapter 1 - where Paul referred to all of the Christians there in Corinth - as SAINTS.
- And what this means is that - the SAINTS of God aren't a special subset of deceased believers - who are more venerable than most.
- No - instead - the Greek word - rendered - SAINTS - was used of every believer - both in heaven - and on earth.
- And it's here in our text today - where Paul challenging the Saints - who were suing other saints - in secular courts.

- Courts

- Let's consider again how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - there at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Co 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - challenging the Christians in Corinth...
- ...who were seeking help from the secular courts - in order to settle their legal disputes.
- And while Paul didn't bother to provide us with specific details about an actual court case...
 - ...there seems to've been at least one situation - which resulted in a law suit - between two Christians from the church in Corinth.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul presented this challenge.
- Unrighteous
 - I like the way that the scholars who created the Christian Standard bible rendered verse 1 - they put it like this...

1Co 6:1 If any of you has a dispute against another, how dare you take it to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

- Rather than looking to the leaders of their church - to help them settle their civil disputes...
 - ...there were Christians at the church in Corinth - who decided to seek justice in the civil courts...
 - ...as they allowed the unrighteous judges of Rome to settle their cases.
 - And listen - it wasn't uncommon for the unjust judges of Corinth - to receive bribes from those who were wealthy.
- Unjust
 - Here's how Spurgeon explained it in his commentary - and I quote...

In those days, the courts of law were utterly unjust. It was all a matter of who could bribe the most, for he would gain the suit. I think that we cannot say that it is quite like this at the present time in our law courts, neither can this

verse be strictly a rule for the guidance of men in these days, except that, in the spirit of Paul's words, all lawsuits among Christians should be avoided if possible.

- As we consider Spurgeon's perspective - it would be unreasonable for us to think that Christians should always avoid secular courts.
- For example - if we find ourselves dealing with a legal dispute with an unbeliever...
- ...then - civil courts here in our country might be the best way to settle that matter.
- And while we can rejoice in knowing that our courts aren't as corrupt as the courts of first century Corinth...
- ...we can also be certain that there are many unrighteous judges here in the US - who's beliefs are entirely unbiblical.
- Maine
- For example - it was earlier this year - when a Maine District Judge named Jennifer Nofsinger...
- ...denied a mother's religious freedom to take her daughter to church.
- This decision was made - after the child's father took issue with his daughter attending the Calvary Chapel - in Bangor Maine.
- He not only objected to the way Pastor Ken Graves teaches the Bible "verse by verse, chapter by chapter,"...
- ...but - he also insisted that his daughter's baptism constituted "indoctrination."
- And we shouldn't be surprised to learn that he brought in a sociology professor - who is a self-proclaimed cult expert...
- ...to help convince the court that the judge should deny his former wife - of her God-given first amendment rights.

- Argument
 - That's right - the father hired Yanya La-lich - to help convince the judge that the court must prevent Elizabeth from taking her daughter to church.
 - And with this as the goal - La-lich informed the judge that - the Calvary Chapel there in Bangor Maine is a cultic organization...
 - ...because the Pastor teaches the biblical stance on marriage and sexuality.
 - And while it's true that La-lich is not a psychologist nor a psychiatrist - she went on to assure the judge...
 - ...that Elizabeth's daughter would be harmed by the messages she receives at the church...
 - ...because of the "fear mongering, paranoia, and anxiety taught by the pastor.
- Decision
 - Sadly - the state district judge declared the church's biblical teachings to be psychologically harmful.
 - And rather than recognizing the mother's liberty to exercise her God given first amendment right to assemble with her church...
 - ...the unjust judge decided to grant the father the sole right to govern their daughter's religious activities.
 - In response - - attorneys from Liberty Counsel have filed an appeal to the Maine Supreme Court...
 - ...on behalf of a single mother who has been barred by an unconstitutional custody order...
 - ...from taking her 11-year-old daughter to the evangelical Christian church of her choosing.

- Common
 - As we wait to see how all of this plays out in the courts - let's pray that the Supreme Court there in Maine...
 - ...will make a righteous decision - by restoring the first amendment rights of this mother - to take her daughter to church.
 - Sadly - this is just one - of many court cases - in which an unjust judge has made an unrighteous decision - regarding parental rights.
 - Case in point - it was last November - when a California court granted full custody to a mother - who wants to transition her son.
 - Meanwhile - the Father - who opposes these procedures - must appeal to a higher court - in order to exercise his parental rights.
 - And it goes without saying that the decision of that unjust judge will set an unrighteous precedent...
 - ...for future cases involving parental disagreements over gender identity and the right to transition a minor.
- Unrighteous
 - I should also point out that this is just a scratch on the surface of all of the unrighteous decisions that have been made by our secular judges.
 - This includes judicial decisions made against biological fathers - who want to protect the life of their unborn baby...
 - ...and this includes the prosecution of Christians - who have been arrested for praying outside of abortion clinics.
 - Without debate - there is a growing list of unrighteous decisions - being made by secular judges - who reject the truth of God's word.

- And while there are times when Christians must utilize our civil courts - whenever we're dealing with legal matters with unbelievers...
- ...Paul encouraged Christians to avoid these secular courts - when it comes to disputes with other Christians.

- Judge

- With this as our focus - let's consider again the way that Paul explained it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 1.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

1Co 6:1 If any of you has a dispute against another, how dare you take it to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

- When it comes to legal disputes between believers - we should take a moment to ask - who is better equipped to make a righteous decision?
- Should Christians look to the secular courts - where we run the risk of allowing unbelievers to settle a dispute between believers?
- Or - should we seek the Saints of God to settle our civil disputes - according to the truth of God's word?
- According to Paul - the answer is - the Saints of God Whom the Lord has ordained - to lead the local church.
- And in order to justify this position - Paul appealed to the way that we will eventually judge the fallen angels.
- World
- Notice with me again - beginning there at verse 2 - where Paul asked...

1Co 6:2 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?

- You might not know this - but - there's coming a day - when we will judge the world in righteousness.
- Jude confirmed this in his little epistle - when he informed his audience that...
 - ...we will execute judgment on every unbeliever - as we convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds...
 - ...which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against our Savior.
 - Therefore - the Saints who have been ordained to lead - shouldn't have a problem - judging these matters with righteous judgment.
- Angels
 - Not only that - but - Paul also assured us that we will also judge the fallen angels - look with me again - there at verse 3 - where he asked...

1Co 6:3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

- Now - I wish I could tell you more about the way that we will sit in judgment over the angels who fell.
- Jude informed us that the angels who did not keep their proper domain are currently reserved in everlasting chains - for the judgment day.
- Not only that - but - we also know that all of the fallen angels will eventually be cast into the lake of fire.
- And according to Paul - those who trust in Jesus will take part in their judgment.
- That being the case - the Saints ordained to lead - shouldn't have a problem - judging these matters with righteous judgment.

● Application

- Righteousness

- I like the way that the Lord Jesus summed it up - in John chapter 7 - it's verse 24 - where He declared...

Jhn 7:24 “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

- Here in this verse - we find the Lord Jesus - encouraging every Christian to make every judgment - according to what is right.
- And this most certainly includes the leaders who are called to provide mediation - for disciples who are embroiled in a legal dispute.
- If you really want your legal disputes with other believers to be settled with righteous judgment...
- ...then - the best thing that you can do is to seek the Saints of God - to settle your case - in the Supreme Court of the Christian church.
- You see - it's here in the Supreme Court of the Christian church - where we will receive the righteous judgments of God.

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...the Supreme Court of the Saints should not only establish Righteousness

2. ...but - the Supreme Court of the Saints should also endorse Truthfulness.

- In order to explain what I mean - let's turn our attention back to the point that Paul was making - here in our text today.
- Let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 6 - beginning there at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

IV. Truthfulness

● Text

1Co 6:4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

1Co 6:5 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?

1Co 6:6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

• Judgments

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - addressing those in the church - who had judgments concerning things pertaining to this life.
- In other words - he was referring to the believers - who had legal matters that they wanted to bring before the secular courts.
- And while we aren't given any details about these legal matters - I have no doubt that...
- ...there were Christians at the church in Corinth - who were dealing with all manner of legal disputes...
- ...including breach of contracts - property lawsuits - employment litigation - and medical malpractice.
- And it's sad to say that - these Christians felt like they needed help from the unjust judges of the secular courts there in Corinth.

• Least

- That being the case - let's consider how Paul challenged them about their plan of action - look with me again there at verse 4 - where asked...

1Co 6:4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

- In other words - Paul was asking the litigious Christians in Corinth - why they were appointing unbelieving judges - to settle their legal disputes.
- And just to be clear - this question was based on the concern that - the unbelieving judges of Corinth...
- ...lacked the spiritual discernment necessary - for making decisions that were based on Biblical truth.
- I like the way that William MacDonald explained Paul's point in his commentary of this text - here's how he put it...

Paul is asking the Corinthians: When matters arise between you requiring the impartial judgment of some third party, do you go outside the confines of the church and set men to judge you who are not recognized by the church for spiritual discernment?

- Rhetorical
- With this in mind - we shouldn't be surprised to find Paul - shaming the Saints - who were seeking help from the secular courts.
- Let's consider how he put it - there in verse 5 - where he declared...

1Co 6:5 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?

- Now - there should be no doubt that Paul was presenting them with a rhetorical question...
- ...because - OF COURSE there were wise men in the church there in Corinth.
- And I have no doubt that there were Christian leaders - who were divinely ordained - and spiritually gifted...
- ...to provide the mediation necessary - for judging between the brethren who were struggling with a legal dispute.

- And so - those who decided to take their case to the secular courts - were bringing shame upon themselves.
- Shame
 - That word - shame - found there in verse 5 - was translated from a Greek word...
 - ...which was used of those who are embarrassed - after being exposed for wrongdoing.
 - The same Greek word was used of those who are disgraced - after their mistakes are manifest.
 - And listen - when Christians sue other Christians in secular courts - they not only shame themselves...
 - ...but - they bring shame upon the good name of our Savior - Jesus - and the reason why is because...
 - ...Christians have been called to love one another - according to the truth of God's word.
- Unbelievers
 - In order to explain my point - let's take another look at verse 6 - where Paul declared...

1Co 6:6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!
 - Now - that word - unbelievers - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of the infidels - who have no faith in God.
 - And what this means is that - the believer - who hauls another believer before an unbelieving judge...
 - ...is asking a person who rejects the greatest foundational truth of reality...

- ...to settle the truth - in a legal dispute between believers.
- And with that being the case - it's important to remember that - unbelievers are suppressing the truth - in their unbelief.

● Application

- Suppress
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 18 - where he declared...

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- Here in these verses - we're reminded of the fact that - the unbeliever is actively suppressing the truth - in their unrighteousness.
- With that being the case - we must take a moment to ask - why would a believer bring another believer - before an unbelieving judge...
- ...knowing that the unbeliever is foolishly suppressing the truth of God - because they love their unrighteousness.
- According to Paul - it would be better to stand before the Supreme Court of the Christian church...
- ...where wise leaders are able to endorse a Truthful judgment - according to the truth of God's word.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
 1. ...the Supreme Court of the Saints should not only establish Righteousness
 2. ...and the Supreme Court of the Saints should not only endorse Truthfulness...
 3. ...but - the Supreme Court of the Saints should encourage Forgiveness.
- With this as our focus - let's turn our attention back to the point that Paul was making - here in our text today.
- Let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 6 - beginning there at verse 7 - where Paul declared...

V. Forgiveness

● Text

1Co 6:7 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?

1Co 6:8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

• Failure

- According to Paul - the litigious Christians in Corinth were not only shameful for suing the Saints of God...
- ...but - they were also failures - for the way that they were allowing unbelievers to settle their legal disputes.
- And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the word - failure - found there in verse 7 - was translated from a Greek word...

- ...which was used in reference to a diminishing deterioration - which was affecting the disciples of Christ.
- The same word was also used of those who are overcome - and conquered.
- And in this context - Paul was helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
 - ...those who sue the Saints in the secular courts - are allowing their flesh - to cause a failure of faith.
- Accept
 - I like the way that the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered verse 7 - they put it like this...

1Co 6:7 Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated?
 - According to Paul - it would be better for every believer - to accept wrongdoing from another Christian...
 - ...than to sue the saints of God - in the secular courts of this world.
 - And it would be better to simply forgive the Christian who cheats us...
 - ...than to accept the utter defeat that takes place in the church...
 - ...whenever a believer brings their brothers and sisters in Christ - before a secular court.
 - Guilty
 - In order to understand Paul's point - let's take another look at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

1Co 6:8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

- Before we condemn another Christian - for the way that they've wronged us...
- ...we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking - how many times have I wronged other believers?
- And before we accuse another Christian of cheating us - - we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking...
 - ...how many times have I cheated my brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - More simply put - how often am I guilty of doing the same things that I'm accusing others of doing to me?
- Reputation
- With this question in mind - let's consider the warning that King Solomon presented in Proverbs 25 - beginning at verse 8 - where he declared...

Pro 25:8 Do not go hastily to court;

For what will you do in the end,

When your neighbor has put you to shame?

Pro 25:9 Debate your case with your neighbor,

And do not disclose the secret to another;

Pro 25:10 Lest he who hears it expose your shame,

And your reputation be ruined.

- Christian - listen - there are times when the accuser isn't as innocent as they might like to believe.
- And it's sad to say that many Christians have been put to shame in a court of law...
- ...after the facts of the case were weighed by a jury - or a judge.
- It's for this reason that King Solomon encouraged the people of God to do our best to seek a peaceful solution...

- ...before our legal disputes become full blown court cases - that could result in our reputation be ruined.

● Application

• Settle

- I like the way in which the Lord Jesus explained it - in Luke chapter 12 - it's beginning at verse 57 - where He declared...

Luk 12:57 "Yes, and why, even of yourselves, do you not judge what is right?"

Luk 12:58 "When you go with your adversary to the magistrate, make every effort along the way to settle with him, lest he drag you to the judge, the judge deliver you to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison.

Luk 12:59 "I tell you, you shall not depart from there till you have paid the very last mite."

- Rather than rushing into a legal battle with another believer - we should do our best to settle the case - before it ends up in a secular court.
- And one reason why is because - it's possible that we aren't as innocent as we might like to imagine.
- I recently saw an episode of Judge Judy - in which a man was suing a cashier at a grocery store - for short-changing him \$10.
- And while this guy was certain that the law was on his side - - he was ultimately found guilty of slander - - and fined - \$3000 dollars.
- Christian - listen - we aren't always as innocent as we might like to imagine.

• Steps

- That being the case - how should we react - when another believer comes to us - and accuses us of wrongdoing against them?

- With this question in mind - let's consider the instructions that Jesus presented in Matthew 18 - beginning at verse 15 - where He declared...

Mat 18:15 "...if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Mat 18:16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

Mat 18:17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

- Christian - listen - if another believer comes to you - and accuses you of wrongdoing...
 - ...the best thing you can do is to hear them out - and then try to settle the issue...
 - ...according to righteousness of Christ Jesus - and the truthfulness of God's word.
 - At the same time - if the contention continues - - then it's best to include another mature believer for the sake of mediation.
 - And if mediation fails to settle the situation - then it's time to bring the case before the Supreme Court of the Christian church.
- Reconciliation
 - Rather than taking another Christian to a secular court - where We might find ourselves standing before an unbelieving judge...
 - ...I encourage every Christian seek relational reconciliation according to the instructions that the Lord Jesus presented - in Matthew chapter 18.
 - We should first try to settle the matter with the other believer - before it becomes a contentious division.
 - And if we can't work it out - according to the righteous standard of our Savior's truth...

- ...then we should seek mature mediation from other believers - who can help us to reconcile the relationship.
- And if the mediation of mature believers fails to establish a basis for relational reconciliation...
 - ...then - it's at that point in time when the legal dispute should be brought before the pastor - for a final judgment.
- Accept
 - Knowing that the Supreme Court of the Christian church might not find in your favor - we must not forget what Paul wrote - here in our text today.
 - Look with me again - there at 1st Corinthians chapter 6 - beginning at verse 7 - where he declared...

1Co 6:7 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?

1Co 6:8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

- Christian - listen - rather than allowing a legal dispute to create the conditions for division...
 - ...it would be better to respect the final judgment made by the pastor - for the sake of relational reconciliation.
 - And according to Paul - this is true - even when we feel like we've been wronged - and cheated.
 - Simply put - it would be better for us to walk in the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus...
 - ...than to win a legal battle that ends up causing division within our fellowship of faith.

- Forgiveness
- With this as our goal - let's consider how Paul put it in Colossians chapter 3 beginning at verse 12 - where he declared...

Col 3:12 ...as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- Christian - listen - before you become a litigious believer - who is quick to sue your brothers and sisters in Christ...
 - ...I encourage you to remember that - we've been called to extend the same forgiveness that we've received - by faith in Jesus Christ.
 - And while I realize that there are times when we feel the need to seek the righteous - an truthful judgment of a just judge...
 - ...we must not forget about the blessings of mercy - that are bestowed upon the merciful.
 - And listen - the best way to be merciful - is to forgive others - with the same forgiveness that we've received.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - I want to point out that - there are times when we must deal with legal disputes.
- And when it comes to the conflicts we have with other Christians - Paul encouraged us to seek help from the Supreme Court of the church.
- In order to understand why - it'll help you to remember that...
 1. ...the Supreme Court of the Saints is able to establish Righteousness according to the righteous Judge of heaven and Earth.

2. ...and the Supreme Court of the Saints is able to endorse Truthfulness according to the truth of God's word.
 3. ...the Supreme Court of the Saints is able to encourage Forgiveness amongst believers.
- And with all of this being the case - we will all do well to avoid the shame and suing the Saints - in the secular courts of our society.
 - And instead - let's look to the leaders of our church - to help us settle every legal disputes...
 - ...according to the wisdom that the Lord will pour out - on the Supreme Court of the Christian church.