

# 1 Corinthians 6

## The Church in Court

The sixth chapter of this book opens with more problems that need to be addressed. The chapter is broken into two sections: (1) brethren taking each other to court (1-11); (2) instructions about sexuality (12-20) which leads into their first question about sexuality and marriage (ch 7).

**Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? <sup>2</sup> Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? <sup>4</sup> So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? <sup>5</sup> I say *this* to your shame. *Is it so, that* there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, <sup>6</sup> but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?**

<sup>7</sup> Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? <sup>8</sup> On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. *You do this even to your brethren.*

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

3. Saints are in a better position to resolve things because: they understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; they understand the nature of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
4. The unrighteous (9) connects to the worldly judges  
- the Corinthians were just like them but they have changed. Why seek the input of the unrighteous
5. Paul used the Roman court system in his defense (Acts 25:9-11)

Is there any circumstance in which a Christian can go to court against another Christian?



## 1 Corinthians Words to a Troubled Church

### Things to Notice:

- The expression "Do you not know" repeated 6x in this chapter (2,3,9,15,16,19)
- Unrighteous deciding things among brethren (1); are of no account in the church (4); shall not inherit the kingdom of God (9)

The Corinthian church was leaving three wrong impressions with the community:

- \_\_\_\_\_ among each other (ch 1-2)
- Inexcusable \_\_\_\_\_ (ch 5)
- Taking each other to \_\_\_\_\_ (ch 6)

### A. Three Major Concerns Are Presented

1. You are taking your differences before \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
2. You ought to settle this among \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
3. You are not treating each other \_\_\_\_\_ (8)

We are not told what the dispute was about  
We are not told who was in the right

### Several Interesting Thoughts Develop From this Section:

1. Saints will judge the world and angels (2-3)
2. What was taking place was shameful (5, 8)
3. A person can change (9-11)
4. The Corinthians had a past, as we all do
5. Jesus condemns homosexuality (9, 14:37)

### B. Additional Thoughts

1. *Any dare to go to law* (1) - knowing what Jesus said (Mt 5:39-40; 5:23-25)
2. Reconciliation is the goal of the disciple  
Retribution is the goal of litigation

## We Belong to the Lord

In this second section of this chapter, Paul address sexual purity that is expected in Christ. Our bodies belong to the Lord and we honor the Lord through our bodies.

**<sup>12</sup> All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. <sup>13</sup> Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. <sup>14</sup> Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. <sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." <sup>17</sup> But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. <sup>18</sup> Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

The structure of these verses appear that Paul is answering arguments used to justify immoral behavior.

Argument # 1

All things are lawful (12-13)

- Things may be lawful but that doesn't mean they are \_\_\_\_\_ (profitable) -12
- Things may be lawful, but I shouldn't be \_\_\_\_\_ by them—12

Argument # 2

Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food (13)

- The body is not for \_\_\_\_\_ (13)
- The body is for the \_\_\_\_\_ (13)
- The body is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (19)
- The body is to \_\_\_\_\_ God (20)

Paul's Two Fold Admonition:

Flee fornication (18)

Glorify God in your body (20)

**In a sex saturated culture how can a disciple today keep himself pure?**

Understand that God expects you to and you can  
Titus 2:11-12; 2 Pet 3:10-12

Think pure (Phil 4:8; Mk 7:21)

Make no provisions for the flesh (Rom 13:14)

Draw serious boundaries and keep them

Be careful with your friendships with the  
opposite sex (Gen 39:9)

Make it your ambition to please the Lord (2 Cor 5:9)

### **The Two Part Aspect of Discipleship**

1. You were \_\_\_\_\_ with a price (1 Jn 2:2; 1 Pet 1:18-19)
2. You are not your \_\_\_\_\_ (Lk 9:23)  
This destroys the "It's my life and I can do whatever I want" ideology