

Lawsuits and the Church

A study in 1 Cor. 6:1-11

I. Introduction

Another manifestation of the immaturity of the Corinthians was that they were unscrupulous in their dealings and were litigious

II. The Problem Identified

1. The immorality of the Corinthians was being displayed in bitter disputes in the _____

2. They were not acting like Christians by defrauding and wronging and _____ one another
3. They were _____ how serious their sins were

III. The Position Mistaken

1. Christians have been given the privilege of even judging _____, yet so many seem content to live at a lower level
 - i. Judging angels –
 - a. **Matt. 19:28** – “And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
 - b. **Rev. 2:26-27** – “²⁶ And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; ²⁷ and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;”

IV. The Prohibition Explained

1. Paul is specifically speaking of Christians suing _____ Christians
 - i. **Matt. 5:25** – “Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.”
2. Paul is *not* saying that the courts are _____
 - i. Paul appeals to the Roman justice system:

1. **Acts 22:25** – “But when they stretched him out with leather straps, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?”
2. **Acts 25:10-11** – “¹⁰But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to *the* Jews, as you also very well know. ¹¹If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is *true* of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

V. The Prescription Given

1. Christians should be the ones to work things out _____ in the heart of Christian love
2. Christians should not be _____ with their brothers in the first place
3. A Christian should react with a spirit of:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____ to be meek when we are wronged

VI. Conclusion

1. Christians should seek to work out their disputes internally, particularly regarding civil matters
2. Christians should be honorable and meek in all interactions and disputes
3. Don’t be so caught up in asserting your “rights” that you leave the moral right behind

Answer Key:

I. Introduction

II. The Problem Identified

1. The immorality of the Corinthians was being displayed in bitter disputes in the **LAW COURT**
2. They were not acting like Christians by defrauding and wronging and **SUING** one another
3. They were **OVERLOOKING** how serious their sins were

III. The Position Mistaken

1. Christians have been given the privilege of even judging **ANGELS**, yet so many seem content to live at a lower level

IV. The Prohibition Explained

1. Paul is specifically speaking of Christians suing **OTHER** Christians
2. Paul is *not* saying that the courts are **USELESS**

V. The Prescription Given

1. Christians should be the ones to work things out **INTERNALLY** in the heart of Christian love
2. Christians should not be **DEALING WRONGFULLY** with their brothers in the first place
3. A Christian should react with a spirit of:
 - i. **GIVING**
 - ii. **FORGIVENESS**
 - iii. **WILLINGNESS** to be meek when we are wronged

VI. Conclusion