

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses. As the class progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do this yourself.

¹When one of you has a grievance against another,
does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?

²Or 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?

³Do you not know
that we are to judge angels?
How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

⁴So if you have such cases,
why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?

⁵I say this to your shame.

Can it be
that there is no one among you
wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers,
⁶but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

⁷To have lawsuits at all with one another
is already a defeat for you.

Why not rather suffer wrong?

Why not rather be defrauded?

⁸But you yourselves wrong

and defraud—even your own brothers!

1. What is the next issue that Paul addresses?

2. Why does Paul say the secular courts are less-qualified than the church to settle disputes among believers? (How does he describe them in verse 1?)

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3. If they insist upon pursuing their disputes, where does Paul say they should take them?

4. What two justifications does Paul give in verses 2-3 for the church's qualifications to resolve their disputes?

5. What else has Paul already said in 1 Corinthians that would support the church's competence to settle disputes between her members?

6. From the rest of the New Testament, how do we know that Paul was not always opposed to utilizing the secular courts?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 again.

7. What is the irony in Paul's question in verse 5 given their self-perception that he has previously addressed in the letter?

8. Why is the mere presence of lawsuits among them already a defeat?

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❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 again.

15. What is the value of bringing things before the church? (What can believers bring to bear that the secular courts can't?)

16. Why do you think Paul more extensively addresses their response to being wronged and defrauded more than the original wronging and defrauding?

17. List some potential negative consequences, both within and outside of the church, that could come as a result of how they have been handling their disputes.

18. How does this passage cause you to reflect upon your own attitude toward disputes with fellow believers?

19. Summarize the passage in one sentence.

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would not wrong each other to begin with. Pray also that we would deal righteously with each other when disputes inevitably occur. Praise God that He has given us His wisdom in His Word.