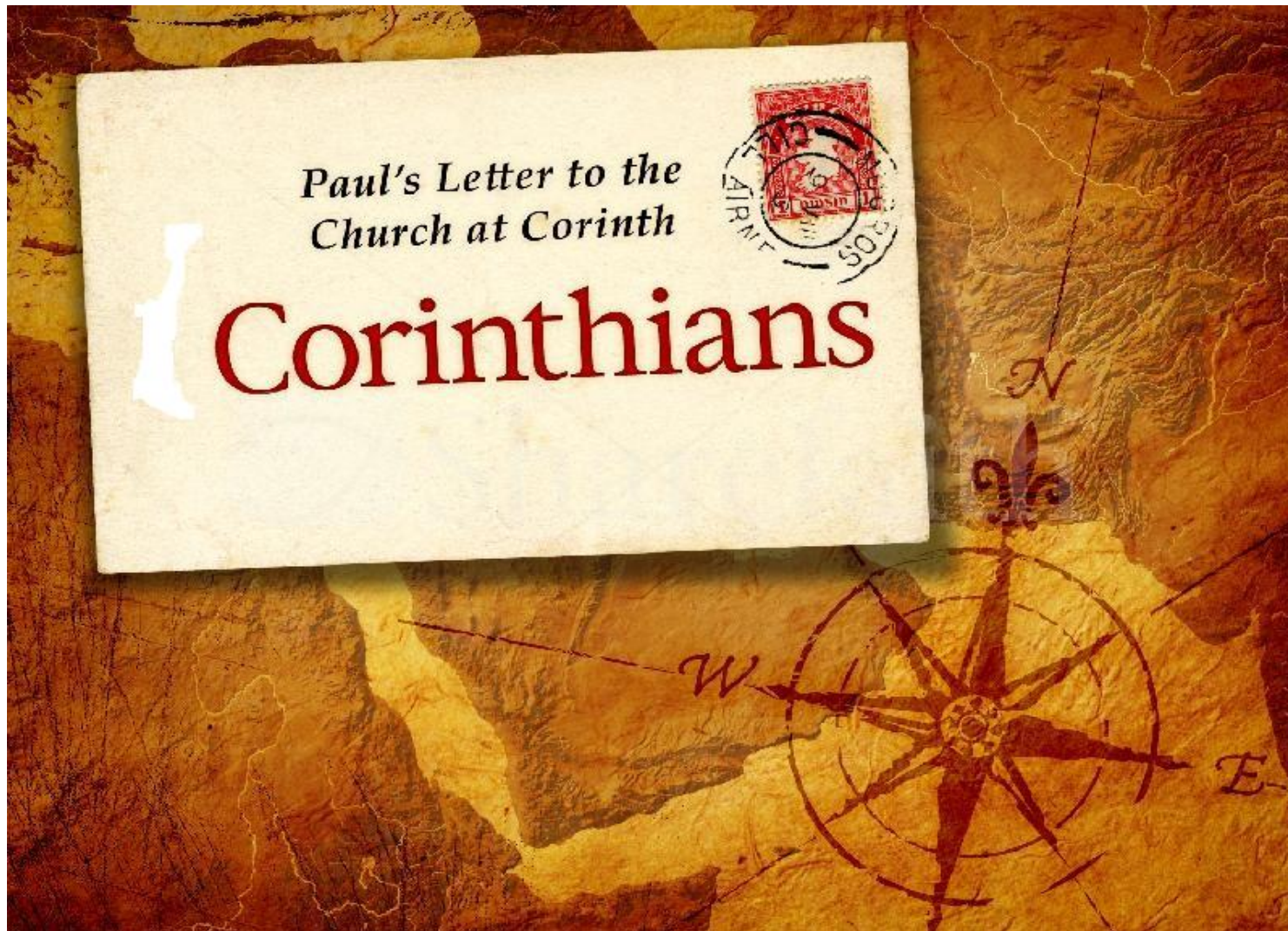


1 Cor. 6:1-4 The Lawsuits Between Brothers



Today's Outline*



Christian Conduct in Handling Legal Issues 6:1-11

1. The Context of I Corinthians 6:1-11
 - a. The Jurisdiction of the Church—I Corinthians 5
 - b. The Jurisdiction of the World—I Corinthians 6
 - c. The Lawsuits of I Cor 6:1-11 Are Carnal
2. The Content of I Corinthians 6:1-11
 - a. The Corinthian Lawsuits Revealed Audacity 6:1
 - b. The Lawsuits Revealed Doctrinal Ignorance 6:2-4
 - c. The Lawsuits Revealed Spiritual Immaturity 6:5-6
 - (1) Evidence of the Immaturity
 - (2) When May a Believer Legitimately Become Involved in Civil Court?

* adapted from McCalley

Review



- In 1 Corinthians Paul is giving instruction on the problems in the Corinthian church.
- In Chp 1 – 4 we have the problem of dissension
- In Chp 5 we have the problem of immorality
- In Chp 6 we have the problem of lawsuits and Christian liberty
- The last two verses in Chp 5 give a starting point for Chp 6 (who should be judging believers?)
- v:12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders?
- Do you not judge those who are within the church?
- v13 But those who are outside, God judges.
REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

Review of Chapter 5 *



- I Cor 5 teaches that the church is not to extend its jurisdiction into the world.
- Believers are to judge matters within the church, not the world.
- Paul was concerned with the purity of the church, not the purity of Roman society.
- His aim was the personal salvation of men, not the corporate salvation of Rome.

* McCalley

Today's verses



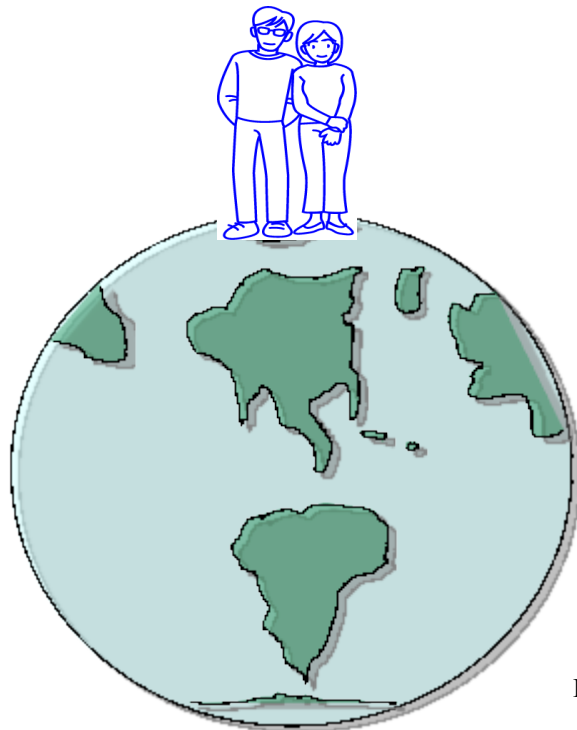
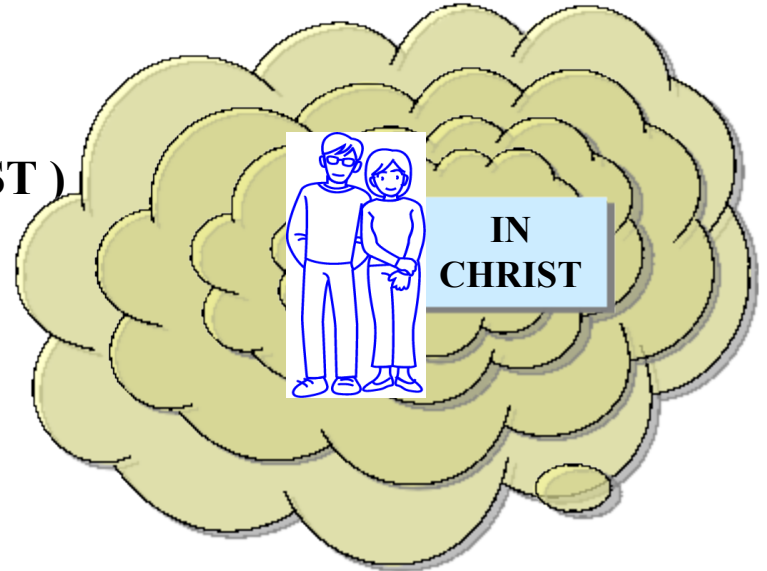
- 1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?
- 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts?
- 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?
- 4 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?

The believer's new life in Christ Jesus

Our **POSITION**

(WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST)

- Eternal
- Unchangeable



Our **CONDITION**

(OUR MOMENT-BY-MOMENT WALK
IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE)

- Temporal
- Changeable

The believer in and focused on the heavenlies:

- in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
- our citizenship is in heaven
- the hope laid up for you in heaven
- an inheritance --- reserved in heaven for you
- seeking the things above
- set your mind on the things above

The believer's spiritual resume*

- Redeemed - Gal 5:1, Rom 3:24, Eph 1:7
- Reconciled – 2Cor 5:19-21
- Forgiven All Trespasses – Col 2:13, Eph 1:7, 4:32
- Justified – Rom 5:1, Rom 3:26
- Made Near – Eph 2:13
- Delivered From the Power of Darkness – Col 1:13
- Translated Into the Kingdom of the Son of His Love
- On the Rock, Christ Jesus – 1 Cor 3:11, Eph 2:20
- A Gift From God the Father to Christ – Jn 17:2-24
- Glorified – Col 3:4, Rom 8:30
- Complete in Him – Col 2:9,10

* partial list from Riches of God's Grace



¹ 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?

Does any one of you (Corinthians)

Again Paul used a rhetorical question to make a point.
The answer was self-evident to him. Constable

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- 1 Corinthians 4:21 What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

Now the first part of the question!



1 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?

when he has a case against his neighbor

has - *echo* –to have, to hold, i.e., to have and hold, implying continued possession (present tense);
having (interlinear)

a case against - *pragma* - that which is being done, an affair or matter: in a forensic sense, “a lawsuit”

1 Thess 4:6a not overstepping the rights of and wronging his brother in the matter, because the Lord [is] the avenger of all these things,

his neighbor - brother



¹ 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?

Complete Subject: Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor

Verb: **dare** - *tolmaō* - in the sense of bearing, enduring, bringing oneself to do a thing

Rom 5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

Direct Object: **to go to law** (i.e. law courts from v:2)

The words (to) go to law translate a word that means “to judge”---. It refers to going to unbelievers for a judgment or opinion.

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1 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?



before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

- the above phrase modifies “to go to law”

unrighteous - adikos - unjust, unrighteous, falling short of the righteousness required by divine laws

1 Peter 3:18a For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God,

- These terms (unrighteous or saints) describe the standing that each has before God in terms of personal salvation.
- Paul does not mean that Roman courts were unrighteous in terms of seeking justice.

McCalley

¹ 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?



before the unrighteous and not before the saints?

saints - *hagios* - a holy and set apart one; In the plural, as used of believers, it designates all such and is not applied merely to persons of exceptional holiness

Vine

Why the saints?

Paul in the following verses will now give his argument on why believers (saints) should be the judge of other believers in these matters.

2 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?




Argument #1 - Or do you not know that

Paul says to the Corinthians that they should know the following fact about believers being a judge.

the saints will judge the world (i.e. nations)

- The saints will have a part in judging unbelievers in the future, this may be (seen in) Daniel 7:22 ---. Constable
- Dan 7:22b judgment was given to the saints of the Most High [God], and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. Amplified Bible

2 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?

the saints will judge the world (i.e. nations) – cont.

- This judgment will evidently take place just after the Lord returns to earth at His second coming to set up His millennial kingdom. Constable

If the world is judged by you

If – assumed to true

- the world or nations will be judged by the saints
- based on this truth then the following should be true

2 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?



are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?

smallest law courts = smallest matters (Interlinear)

smallest matters - *elachistos* – the least in weight or importance

- to try the trivial cases (marginal reading in the NASB)

In the light of future eschatological judgment, any decisions that believers must make in church courts now are relatively trifling.

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³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?



Argument #2 - Do you not know

- this expression is used six times in Chp 6
- know (*oida*) is in the perfect tense
- you (Corinthians) have known this in the past and continue to know into the present
- 1 Cor 5:6b Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

that we will judge angels

we – saints or believers



³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

that we will judge angels

- will judge – lit: to sit in judgment upon - Wuest
- Paul makes his point stronger “we will also judge angels”

Facts about angels:

- First, angels are the highest order of beings under God.
- Second, angels are supernatural beings.
- In spite of this, saints have a position (in Christ), an honor, higher than angels—we will judge them. McCalley
- Angels desire to look into the things of salvation. 1 Pet 1:12

³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?



How much more matters of this life?

to say nothing at all of judging the affairs of this life Wuest

matters of this life - *biōtikos* - pertaining to this life

Luke 21:34 Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life ---.



4 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?

Summary:

So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life

- **if** – assumed to be true
- A Roman judge presides over a minor court compared to the jurisdiction that saints enjoy. McCalley
- Verse 4a --- refer to the disputes and judicial procedures the Christians should have used with one another rather than to the heathen law courts.

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4 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?

do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church

How could you appoint as judges such ones being little esteemed by the church.

Interlinear

how could you appoint as judges - to cause to sit, to set,
as judges (1 Cor. 6:4).

being little esteemed - to despise, treat with scorn

- a believer has a high calling since he's now "in Christ"
- the judges of this world have a high position in the world system but not in the church

Final Thoughts



A church has come to a pretty pass when its members believe that they are more likely to get justice from *unbelievers* than from their own brothers.

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