

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 6:1-8)

1. Is it acceptable for brethren to sue one another in a court of law?

No: *“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints” (I Corinthians 6:1)?*

- Problems, when unable to be resolved individually, are supposed to be handled by involving the local church (**Matthew 18:15-17**).
- Brethren should be able to communicate and work out their differences (**Colossians 3:13**).
- We should never want to be judged by the unjust (**Psalms 43:1** and **Proverbs 29:27**).
- Every living Christian is a saint (**I Corinthians 1:2**, **I Corinthians 14:33**, **I Corinthians 16:1**, and **Colossians 1:2**).
- With the right spiritual mindset, this junk would never happen amongst saints (**Romans 15:1-2**, **Galatians 5:13**, and **Ephesians 4:1-3**).

2. Who will the saints judge?

The world and angels: *“(2) Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? (3) Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” (I Corinthians 6:2-3)?*

- What I can say that I know about this is:
 - Jesus will judge the world (**Matthew 16:27**, **Romans 2:16**, **Romans 14:10-12**, **II Corinthians 5:10**, and **II Timothy 4:1**).
 - We are said to be with Christ at His return (**I Thessalonians 3:13** and **Jude 14-15**).
- The Apostles were told they’d judge the world (**Matthew 19:28** and **Luke 22:30**).
- We are told that we can sit on thrones (**Revelation 3:21**).
- Angels are going to be judged on the “Judgment Day” (**II Peter 2:4** and **Jude 6**).

3. In matters of dispute that brethren must decide, should it be those who are chief amongst us in the judgment seats?

No: *“If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church” (I Corinthians 6:4).*

- Not preachers, elders, older saints, or influential people; but those who are least esteemed are the judges of these matters. This ensures there are no “power hungry” people seeing to matters as these (**Luke 22:24-27** and **III John 9-11**).
- This instruction shows the lack of perfection in Corinth. How? There should not be those least esteemed among saints (**Romans 12:10**, **Romans 12:16**, and **Philippians 2:3**).

4. If there are not wise brethren amongst the saints that can judge fairly, is that a good thing?
No, it is shameful: *“I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren”* (**I Corinthians 6:5**)?

- Wisdom is necessary for proper judgment (**Proverbs 2:6-10** and **Ecclesiastes 8:5**; cf. **I Kings 3:16-28**).
- There was a shameful ignorance present in Corinth (**I Corinthians 15:34**).
- Just think for a moment how the carnal mind and lacking wisdom could negatively affect judgment between two “brethren” in many ways (**Deuteronomy 1:16-17**, **I Samuel 8:1-3**, **Proverbs 24:23**, **Isaiah 5:23**, **John 7:24**, etc.).

5. Rather than going to law before unbelievers, what should brethren be willing to do?

Take the wrong, be defrauded: *“(6) But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. (7) Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded”* (**I Corinthians 6:6-7**)?

- This is not to say that it is right to defraud brethren (**I Thessalonians 4:6**).
- Look at how Jesus was willing to suffer injustice for the sake of souls (**I Peter 2:19-23**).
- That being said, while willing to be defrauded, we’d have to help that brother or sister correct their errors so his or her soul is not lost (**Galatians 6:1-2** and **James 5:19-20**).

6. Rather than using wisdom and avoiding the court systems, what were they doing?

“Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren” (**I Corinthians 6:8**).

- It is wrong to defraud [keep back by fraud; deception] (**Leviticus 19:13**).
- We’re supposed to be honest with everyone (**Romans 12:17**, **II Corinthians 8:21**, **Ephesians 4:25**, and **Colossians 3:9**).
- There is supposed to be a special bond amongst brethren wherein dishonesty or any other malicious activities should not be possible (**Hebrews 13:1**, **I Peter 3:8**, **I Peter 4:8**, and **I John 3:10-18**).