



# 1 Corinthians

Messy  
church

*1 Corinthians 6:1-8 (ESV)*

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

*2 Or 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?*

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

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

*5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers,*

*6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?*

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

*Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?*



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

- “Grievance” - technical term for a law suit.
- In Athens, people used legal systems to mediate all kinds of grievances, even personal ones. These courts were public.
- We should learn to deal with conflict in a mature, Christian manner.

## **2 Or 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?**

- We are not to judge people now. This refers to an end-time judgements.
- Trivial - things not pertaining to legal cases

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

- This should show the high authority we have as children of God.
- We are designed to take care of God’s creation

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

- This translation could be a command or a question. The point is to not involve those who do not understand God’s Kingdom in matters of personal conflict.



**5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, 6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?**

- God has given us a pattern for dealing with conflict within the church. (Mat 18:15-20)
- Seeing that the Corinthians were so prideful about their wisdom, Paul sarcastically asked if they cannot use that same wisdom they are so proud of to solve their disputes.

**7 To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?**

- You might win the conflict in court, but you have lost the spiritual battle. It is better to be wronged in a conflict and stay humble than grieve the Spirit of God with your pride and offence.
- Conflict has a spiritual side to it.
- Matthew 18:15-20 (NLT)

15 “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. 17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

18 “I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.



19 “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. 20 For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

Steps to conflict:

- 1) one on one confrontation. If this solves the problem, nobody should know about it. Keep it confidential.
- 2) Ask arbiters to help resolve the conflict
- 3) Take it public

**“Permitting conflict”** This refers to the spiritual atmosphere you allow to be between you and someone else. Do you get closure or do you allow conflict to brew?

**“Two or three”** God abides in relationships where there is unity. V16 & 20

