



LIVING IN STEP WITH OUR IDENTITY

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

CHURCH MATTERS

A Series on 1 Corinthians

CAUSE OF PERSONAL CONFLICT

- * Misunderstandings
- * Lack of planning
- * Different (opposing) goals / agendas
- * Personality differences
- * Significant life change
- * Betrayal of trust
- * Saying something thoughtless



1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11 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!



1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11 ESV

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?



1 CORINTHIANS 6:1–11 ESV

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?

8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!



1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-11 ESV

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,

10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.





A PRINCIPLE vs 1

- * **Work out your disputes with other believers OUTSIDE the secular courts.**


Antonin Scalia (1986-2016)

The associate Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia has made this observation:

I think that this passage [1 Corinthians 6; I'm grateful that some Supreme Court Justices actually look at the Bible] has something to say about the proper Christian attitude toward civil litigation. Paul is making two points. Paul says that the mediation of a mutual friend, such as the parish priest, should be sought before parties run off to the law courts. . . . I think we are too ready today to see vindication or vengeance through adversary proceedings, rather than peace through mediation. . . . Good Christians, just as they are slow to anger, should be slow to sue.⁸

[from Preaching the Word commentary on 1 Corinthians; page 107]



A person is sitting on a stone wall, wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans. They are holding a black Bible with "HOLY BIBLE" written on the cover. The person has a white wristband that says "PRIVATE ADVENTURE YOUTH" and a black wristband that says "THE ULTIMATE". The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a stone wall and a paved path.

REASONS FOR THE PRINCIPLE

- ✧ If you will judge the world and angels in the kingdom to come, you can certainly judge simple disputes among yourselves now (vss. 2–6)

Revelation 20:4 ESV

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**



2 Timothy 2:11-13 ESV

11 The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.





REASONS FOR THE PRINCIPLE

- ✧ If you take a trivial case to secular court with another believer, regardless of who wins it is really a defeat for the kingdom of God (vss. 7–8)

John 13:35 ESV

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.



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REASONS FOR THE PRINCIPLE

- ✧ **When you don't settle these cases among yourselves, you are acting like someone who will not inherit the kingdom of God (vss. 9–11)**

Romans 12:2 ESV

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



A GOD CENTERED RESPONSE TO CONFLICT

1. Glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31)

* How can please and honor God in the situation?

2. Get the log out of your own eye (Matthew 7:5)

* How can I show Jesus' work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?

3. Gently restore (Galatians 6:1)

* How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?

4. Go and be reconciled (Matthew 5:24)

* How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a reasonable solution to the conflict?

[The 4 G's of peacemaking are from <https://peacemaker.training>]





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