

**PROBLEM -> LAWSUITS
AMONG BELIEVERS**

GO TO LAW...UNRIGHTEOUS?

*He refers to the Roman law courts, such as those on either side of the *bema* (tribunal platform) where Roman law was strictly administered in accordance with Roman standards.

SAINTS = BELIEVERS

(Not Dead Christians)

*Rom 1:7, 2Cor 1:1,
Eph 1:1, Col 1:2

**JESUS' INSTRUCTION
REGARDING DISPUTES**

Matthew 18:

(15) "go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone"

(16) "take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses"

(17) "tell it to the church"

(18) "let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector"

**THROUGH THE
LENS OF FAITH**

! DANGER

Their actions in these matters are **unrighteous** and **inconsistent** with those who have been:

(1) Washed

-Mt 28:19;
-Acts 2:38; 22:16

(2) Sanctified

-2Ti 2:21; 1Pe 2:9

(3) Justified

-Rom 3:21-5:5

Paul is reminding them that the **unrighteous** will **not inherit the kingdom of God**

-Gal 5:19-21

IT HAD APPARENTLY BECOME COMMON PRACTICE FOR THE CORINTHIANS TO SETTLE NONCRIMINAL PROPERTY CASES BEFORE NON-CHRISTIAN JUDGES

¹When one of you has a ***grievance*** against another, does he ***dare go to law*** before the ***unrighteous instead of the saints?*** DARE -> THIS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE WILL OF CHRIST

ARGUING FROM THE GREATER TO THE LESSER

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

I.E. IF YOU ARE GOING TO JUDGE THE WORLD & ANGELS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THESE DISPUTES WITHIN THE CHURCH!

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

IF YOU CAN HANDLE THESE GRIEVANCES INTERNALLY, WHY ARE YOU INVOLVING NON-CHRISTIAN JUDGES?

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?***

THEY ARE VIEWING THE WORLD THROUGH THE WISDOM OF MEN, NOT OF CHRIST (1:18-25; 2:1-5; 3:1-4)

⁷To 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!

⁹Or ***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, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will ***inherit the kingdom of God***.

¹¹And ***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***.

1 JOHN 3:4-10 ⁸Whoever makes a ***practice of sinning*** is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the ***Son of God*** appeared was ***to destroy the works of the devil***. ⁹No one born of God makes a ***practice of sinning***...

SAINTS WILL JUDGE:

World (2) & Angels (3)

*God (through His Son) is the ONE true judge:

-1Co 4:4-5; Ps 96:13;
Mt 25:31-46; Jn 5:19-29;
Acts 17:31; 2Pe 2:4;
Rev 12:9

*Whatever judgment we have will be as ***representatives***. We are simply instruments through which God executes His judgment.

-So, ***in what sense*** will the saints judge?

Light of the Gospel?

-John 3:16-21 - Judging the works of the world by spreading the message of "the light"

By Example?

-Mt 12:41-42 - it is the example of faith that will condemn unbelievers

Reigning with Christ?

-Dan 7:22; Mt 19:28;
Rom 8:17; 2Tim 2:12;
Rev 2:26; 3:21

A COMPOUNDING PROBLEM

(1) Being wronged and defrauded by a brother

(2) Dragging a brother to court before a non-believer

-Thereby wronging in return
*Rom 12:17-21

(3) Bringing a stain upon the entire congregation

*5:6-8; Mt 5:13-16;
1Tim 4:12; 1Pet 2:11-12

Paul is arguing it would be better to simply endure the initial wrong rather than escalating and bringing shame on the church!

UNRIGHTEOUS

Their actions are consistent with those who make a practice of:

Sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, stealing, greed, intoxication, reviling, and defrauding!

-5:10; Rom 1:26-32

Saints = Believers

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:2 (ESV)

² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Saints will Judge:

World (2) & Angels (3)

*God (through His Son) is the ONE true judge:

1 Corinthians 4:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me.** ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Psalms 96:13 (ESV)

¹³ before the LORD, for he comes,
for **he comes to judge the earth.**
He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Matthew 25:31–46 (ESV)

³¹ **“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will**

say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.' ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 5:19–29 (ESV)

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²² For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Acts 17:31 (ESV)

³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

2 Peter 2:4 (ESV)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

Revelation 12:9 (ESV)

⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

*Whatever judgment we have will be as representatives. We are simply instruments through which God executes His judgment.
—So, *in what sense* will the saints judge?

Light of the Gospel?

Judging the works of the world by spreading the message of “the light”

John 3:16–21 (ESV)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

By Example?

It is the example of faith that will condemn unbelievers

Matthew 12:41–42 (ESV)

⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. ⁴² The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Reigning with Christ?

Daniel 7:22 (ESV)

²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

Matthew 19:28 (ESV)

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Romans 8:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

2 Timothy 2:12 (ESV)

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;

Revelation 2:26 (ESV)

²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

Revelation 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Jesus Instructions

Matthew 18:15–18 (ESV)

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Wisdom of Men / Christ

1 Corinthians 1:18–25 (ESV)

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV)

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 3:1–4 (ESV)

¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴ For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

A Compounding Problem

- (1) Being wronged and defrauded by a brother
- (2) Dragging a brother to court before a non-believer
- Thereby wronging in return*

Romans 12:17–21 (ESV)

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- (3) Bringing a stain upon the entire congregation

1 Corinthians 5:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Matthew 5:13–16 (ESV)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV)

¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Peter 2:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Paul is arguing it would be better to simply endure the initial wrong rather than escalating and bringing shame on the church!

DANGER

Their actions are **unrighteous** and **inconsistent** with those who have been:

(1) Washed

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

(2) Sanctified

2 Timothy 2:21 (ESV)

²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(3) Justified

Romans 3:21–5:5 (ESV)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

¹ What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,

and whose sins are covered;
⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

⁹ Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰ How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹² and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Paul is reminding them that the **unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God**

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹

envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Unrighteous

Their actions are consistent with those who make a practice of:

Sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, stealing, greed, intoxication, reviling, and defrauding!

1 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

Romans 1:26–32 (ESV)

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Practice

1 John 3:4–10 (ESV)

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.