

## **The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians**

### **The Prohibition of Lawsuits Between Christians**

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

1. **A Shocking Behavior** (vs.1-3)

During the time when the events of the New Testament occurred and were recorded, Rome had granted to the Jews the authority to decide legal matters for themselves. The primary exception to this rule was that a Jewish court could not impose the death sentence (cf. John 19:6-7). Christians, regarded as a Jewish sect, also benefitted from this arrangement. A Christian who has access to the Bible is equipped to know God's standard of righteousness (cf. Lev. 19:15, 35-36; Deut. 16:19; Pr. 16:11; 18:5) and to be wise in understanding and applying His Word (1 Cor. 2:16; cf. John 16:13).

2. **A Shaming Censure** (vs.4-6)

The fundamental and initial problem concerning which Paul had to deal with the Corinthian church was the loftiness of their professed wisdom (cf. 1 Cor. 1:10, 18, 25, 30). Their wisdom, concerning which they were extremely proud, was not wisdom at all but an extension of the foolishness of the world (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18). This 'wisdom' had blinded them to the presence of the most obvious of sins (1 Cor. 5:1) and had contributed to their disregarding of a prescribed responsibility in the assembly (1 Cor. 5:2). And now, their wisdom is insufficient to adjudicate disputes amongst the brethren.

3. **A Guaranteed Failure** (vs.7-8)

The result of having treasure stored up in heaven (cf. Matt. 5:19-21) is that a believer will have the perspective of what is truly valuable. The financial or civil damages of this world, regardless how significant they may seem, are of small importance when compared with one's own sin debt which God has graciously forgiven (Matt 18:21ff; cf. 1 Pet. 4:8). A lawsuit brought against a Christian fellow brother always produces a negative result for the plaintiff even if he wins his court case.