

“The Right Way to Handle Lawsuits”  
**1 Corinthians 6:1-11**

**I. Believers should not go to court with other believers until they have attempted to resolve conflict within the church (vs. 1-6).**

- A. Those who are within the church are qualified to render judgments.
- B. Judges that the world offers are not dictated by the same standard of right.
- C. Taking other believers to court is not representing Christ in a correct manner.

(Revelation 3:19-21)

**II. Believers must have the right perspective when dealing with lawsuits (vs. 7-8).**

- A. If you take your brother to court, you have already lost.
- B. In taking your brother to court, you risk wronging him.

(Psalm 139:13-17; John 13:34-35; 19:6; Philippians 2:3-4)

**III. Believers must not forget that they are to act different from those who have no hope (vs. 9-11).**

- A. Those who live their lives doing wrong will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- B. Those who have been redeemed have been washed of this sinful lifestyle.

(Ephesians 5:1-3; 15-16; 1 John 3:4-10)

**Scripture References and Notes**

“For centuries Jews had settled all their disputes either privately or in a synagogue court. They refused to take their problems before a pagan court, believing that to do so would imply that God, through His own people using His own scriptural principles, was not competent to solve every problem. It was considered a form of blasphemy to go to court before Gentiles. Both Greek and Roman rulers had allowed the Jews to continue that

practice, even outside Palestine. Under Roman law, Jews could try virtually every offense and give almost any sentence, except that of death.”

– John MacArthur, *1 Corinthians*, 136.

**his neighbor** [ἕτερον (heteros)]

- other
- of two: another, a second, (b) other, different, (c) one's neighbor.

**Dare** [τολμάω (tolmaó)]

- audacity
- to have courage, to be bold

Revelation 3:19-21

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. <sup>21</sup> He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

**of no account** [ἐξουθενέω (exoutheneó)]

1. to show by one's attitude or manner of treatment that an entity has no merit or worth, *disdain*
2. to have no use for something as being beneath one's consideration, *reject disdainfully*
3. to regard another as of no significance and therefore worthy of maltreatment, *treat with contempt*

Psalms 139:13-17

<sup>13</sup> For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; <sup>16</sup> Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them. <sup>17</sup> How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

John 19:6

So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.”

Philippians 2:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Ephesians 5:1-3; 15-16

<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. <sup>3</sup> But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

<sup>15</sup> Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

1 John 3:4-10

<sup>4</sup> **Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.** <sup>5</sup> You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> **No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.** <sup>7</sup> Little children, make sure no one deceives you; **the one who practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup> **the one who practices sin is of the devil**; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> **No one who is born of God practices sin**, because **His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin**, because he is born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: **anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor **the one who does not love his brother**.