



## First Corinthians: Chapter 6

### Lawsuits, the Kingdom, and Your Body

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Chapter 6 has three sections.

1. Lawsuits among Christians (v. 1-8)
2. Inheriting God's Kingdom (v. 9-11)
3. Your Body is God's Temple (v. 12-20)



## Lawsuits among Christians (v. 1-8)

- Some of the Corinthian Christians were suing their brothers in Christ
  - Taking them before pagan Roman judges
  - Roman courts pitted rich and powerful against poor and weak
  - Paul implies that this is what was happening at Corinth
- Paul responds with two points
  - Lawsuits should be settled in the Church, not in pagan courts
    - Christians will one day judge the world and angels (v. 2-3)
    - How much more can we settle disputes among ourselves (3-6)
  - Why even have lawsuits at all? (v. 7-8)
    - Isn't it better to suffer wrong than to do harm to your brother?
    - These lawsuits represent a defeat of the Christian way of life!



## Inheriting the Kingdom (v. 9-11)

- Paul puts the matter of lawsuits into the context of the Kingdom (v. 9)
  - Lawsuits before pagan judges give homage to the Kingdom of Caesar!
  - The Kingdom of God requires a different and better way.
- Paul then lists 10 sins common throughout Roman culture (v. 9-10)
  - Everything from sexual promiscuity to greed to homosexuality
  - The word “homosexuality” is the combination of two Greek words
    - The first means “male prostitutes”, the second means “male homosexuals”
    - Paul is not condemning those who merely experience same-sex attraction
    - But he is condemning sexual abuses that were common in Roman society
  - These sins are in radical opposition to the Kingdom of God
- Those in the Kingdom may have been caught up in these sins before
  - But now they have left the old behind: now they are sanctified
  - To be sanctified means to be set aside for God’s special purpose!



## Your Body is God's Temple (v. 12-20)

- Paul now turns his attention to another serious problem in Corinth
  - Some of the Corinthian Christians were still participating in “religious prostitution”
  - Temple prostitutes were common in Greek and Roman society
  - These Christians rationalized their behavior with common Greek aphorisms
    - “All things are lawful for me”
    - “Food is for the stomach, and the stomach for food”
  - This common Greek attitude was based on pagan philosophy
    - The spirit was good, but the body was evil
    - What you did in your body had no effect on your spirit
- Paul addresses the problem by attacking this philosophy directly
  - Not only is the body good, but it is the Temple of the Holy Spirit
  - This puts the pagan Temples of the prostitutes into opposition with God's temple
  - Don't defile God's temple (your body) by union with prostitutes
  - Rather, glorify God in your body!
- Foreshadows Paul's words to the Romans: “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice”