

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 – “A Court of Grace”

Introduction: **Christians show that they have been washed clean from their sins by preferring to suffer wrong than harm Christ’s name or his people.**

1) How Can You Be Judged By Unbelievers?

- Looking at this text, we see that there are some in Corinth who have ‘a case’ against each other. It is important to understand what this does and does not refer to. The Corinthians are taking each other to civil court over interpersonal squabbles and financial disagreements.
- Some churches, in misunderstanding this text, have applied it to serious criminal activity. They have covered up criminal activity, trying to keep it out of criminal courts. This is not Paul’s intent. It is the God-given role of the government to punish criminal activity (Genesis 9, Romans 13), and the church must not interfere with that responsibility.
- Believers are destined to judge the world and angels! (see Jude 6, 2 Peter 2) This is because we are united by faith to Christ and his kingship. We will stand in judgement alongside him. Likewise we have been given the capacity and authority to deal with minor matters in the church.
- Instead, they are dragging them into the courts, and making Christ’s church look like any other worldly group. We might not be tempted to sue each other, but can’t we be tempted to air our grievances to people who have no love for Christ? When we do we can also diminish Jesus in the eyes of the world.

2) How Can You Inherit the Kingdom?

- Rather than being willing to suffer wrong for Christ’s name, the Corinthians are harming each other. Paul warns them that those who live lives contrary to God’s command do not inherit his kingdom. He gives a list of the lifestyles that are contrary to God’s law.
- It is often not popular to tell people that discipleship demands obedience, especially in the area of sexual purity. Many try to avoid Paul’s examples by claiming that he didn’t understand the realities of sexual sin. Paul was well aware of what was going on in Roman society, and he knew that it was contrary to God’s law.
- Looking at this list of sinful lifestyles, we see that we are tempted to these same sins. Paul’s statement in verse 9 does not mean that we are perfect. It doesn’t mean that we never give in to temptation, but it is those who willingly live in sin that show that they are not God’s people (see 1 Corinthians 5).
- For the believer, that old life has been washed away. God’s grace is offered to people who are desperate sinners. He washes, sanctifies and justifies by the blood of Jesus. When this old life has been washed away, we should never want go back to that old

life again. Paul's hearers used to be just like the average Corinthian, but by the power of the spirit, they can leave that behind, lawsuits and all.