

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**1 Corinthians 6:1-6**

**Paul Rebukes Shameful Lawsuits**

by Bob DeWaay  
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**How Dare You?**

**1 Corinthians 6:1 (ESV)**  
When one of you has a grievance against another, **does he dare go to law before the unrighteous** instead of the saints?

- Context: church judges insiders, God will judge the world (5:12-13)
- “Dare” = emphatic first word in the Greek
- “Grievance” is *pragma* which means ‘a lawsuit’ in this context

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**Rhetorical Questions Convict Error**

**1 Corinthians 6:2 (ESV)**  
Or 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**?

- Eschatology is the key issue (Daniel 7:22)
- Ruling with Christ (Rev. 20:4; 2 Tim. 2:12a)
- This is a greater to lesser argument
- Their status rivalry is leading them astray

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**Greater to Lesser**

**1 Corinthians 6:3 (ESV)**  
Do you not know that we are to judge angels? **How much more**, then, matters pertaining to this life!

- They expected secular courts to adjudicate the mundane ‘*bio\_tikos*’ (see Luke 21:34)
- The details about “judge angels” are not specified but are definitely eschatological

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**A Difficult Translation Issue**

**1 Corinthians 6:4 (ESV)**  
So if you have **such cases**, why do you **lay them before** those **who have no standing in the church**?

**1 Corinthians 6:4 (NIV)**  
Therefore, if you have disputes about **such matters**, **appoint as judges** even men **of little account in the church**!

- The Greek is either indicative or imperative
- Indicative implies ironic, imperative literal

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**A Shameful Situation**

**1 Corinthians 6:5-6 (ESV)**  
I say this **to your shame**. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

- Their actions show lack of concern for God’s promises or the body of Christ
- True honor comes from being part of God’s family, not from getting our way!

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### Implications and Applications

- We must reject status rivalry because God has graciously made us His people which is the greatest honor.

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### Our Relationship With God In Christ Is Unmerited Honor

#### 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NASB)

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

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### Our Relationship With God

#### Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but **let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.** For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

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