

JUDGING THE SMALLEST MATTERS
I COR. 6:1-12

Introduction:

- A. Will there ever be internal problems in the church?
 - 1. Problems that do not involve theological or ethical flaws?
 - 2. Day to day problems of the business world?

- B. The Corinthians had such problems.
 - 1. They were going to law with one another.
 - 2. The specifics are unknown.

"DARE ANY OF YOU, HAVING A MATTER AGAINST ANOTHER, GO TO LAW BEFORE THE UNJUST, AND NOT BEFORE THE SAINTS?"

- A. "dare any of you."
 - 1. dare = to venture, to undertake something difficult.

- B. "having a matter against another."
 - 1. matter = a business affair.

- C. They took their dispute to the Roman Civil Court.
 - 1. "before the unjust, and not before the saints."
 - 2. v6.

II. THESE MATTERS ARE SMALL MATTERS. V2

- A. The saints shall judge the world.
 - 1. The world shall be judged.
 - 2. It will be judged by God's people.

- B. The "small matters."
 - 1. small = superlative of mikros.
 - 2. Unimportant affairs of life.

- C. The saints shall judge angels. v3

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1. Surely you can judge things pertaining to this life.
2. pertaining = biotikos = bios = living.
3. Things important to making a living.

D. Use the proper saints. v4

1. If such an occasion arises.
2. "least esteemed" = to set at nought; to dispise.
3. Use the saint who has nothing!

III. LAWSUITS, A SIGN OF FAILURE. V7

A. "Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you."

1. Even to have lawsuits among you is evidence of failure.
2. fault = a being inferior, in a worse state, as compared with a former state. Rom. 11:12.
3. "because you go to law as with another."
4. This is not a suit between unbeliever and believer.

B. The alternative and better way.

1. "Why do ye not rather take wrong?"
2. "Why do ye not suffer yourselves to be defrauded?"

C. Their sin. v8

1. "Instead, you rob and cheat your brothers."

IV. THE UNJUST HAVE NO KINGDOM INHERITANCE. V9-10

A. The unjust judges have no kingdom rights, they will not judge you ever, now or in the future.

1. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?"
2. Be not deceived! to make to wander, cause to err, lead astray, used of religious deceit, doctrinal error.

B. Persons who are unrighteous cannot judge you!

1. "neither fornicators," sexually immoral.
2. "nor idolaters," idol worshippers.
3. "nor adulterers," guilty of adultery.
4. "nor effeminate," soft to the touch.
5. "nor abusers of themselves with mankind,"
[arsenokotes, arsen] a male, [koite] a bed --
Sexual perversion.
6. "nor thieves," to steal.
7. "nor covetous," are greedy.
8. "nor drunkards," get drunk.
9. "nor revilers," slander.
10. "nor extortioners," swindlers.

- C. "shall (not) inherit the kingdom of God."
1. inherit = to be a receiver of a portion.
 2. They are not sons and joint heirs.

V. THAT IS THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE WERE! V11

- A. They saw themselves in this list of sin.
1. "and such were some of you."
- B. They had been changed.
1. "but ye are washed."
 - a. washed = to cleanse by washing away.
 - b. What can wash away my sins.....
 2. "but ye are sanctified."
 - a. sanctified = to set in a state opposed to common or unclean, to put into a state corresponding to God.
 3. "but ye are justified."
 - a. To set forth as righteous.

VI. DO NOT EXERCISE YOUR LAWFUL RIGHTS. V12

- A. It was lawful to sue in the civil courts.
1. "all things are lawful unto me."
 - a. All lawful things are lawful.

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- B. It was not profitable or helpful to do so.
 - 1. "but all things are not expedient."
 - a. expedient = profitable, advantageous.

- C. It was not wrong.
 - 1. "all things are lawful to me."
 - 2. I can do it and not violate any law.

- D. I am not forced to do so if I chose otherwise.
 - 1. "but I will not be brought under the power of any."

VII. OUR GREAT LESSONS.

- A. We will have problems.
 - 1. Life is problems.

- B. We will be hurt.
 - 1. Doing will bring criticism.

- C. Chose the course of action that glorifies God.
 - 1. Don't insist on personal rights to the hurt of the body.

- D. There are small matters and great matters.
 - 1. Physical and Spiritual.

