

Practical Theology Class
Lawsuits - 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Who are the unrighteous to whom Paul refers to in this passage?

Why is Paul concerned about a believer “going to law” against another believer before the unrighteous?

How could believers “go to law” before believers?

What is the qualification of believers to make a judgment between believers?

What is the meaning and application of 1 Corinthians 6:4?

What restrictions does Paul implore believers to make upon themselves when considering “going to law” against someone?

What role might church disciple (Matthew 18:15-17) play in a potential lawsuit or after a suit is filed?

Under what conditions might a believer file a lawsuit against someone else?

Case Scenarios

- A) Two professing believers are partners in a business which fails. One partner bears primary responsibility for the failure due to a very bad decision made unilaterally. How should they handle each of the following possible situations and how can the church help?
- 1) How should they treat each other? How should they handle bankruptcy proceedings?
 - 2) The partner damaged by the other partner’s decision threatens to sue for damages. How would you counsel each partner
- B) A believer is seriously injured at the home of another believer. The medical coverage of the homeowners insurance is quickly exhausted, but the liability portion of the insurance coverage cannot be applied unless a lawsuit is filed. What options would the believer have in being able to gain financial coverage of medical bills?
- C) A married couple in which each spouse claims to be a Christian reaches a level of conflict that results in a physical separation between them and they cannot agree on the living arrangements for the children or basic care for them (schooling, medical care, visitation, financial provision). What options are available to each of them and to the church in each of the following possible consequences?
- 1) One spouse wants to stay separated and the other wants to reconcile
 - 2) One spouse files for legal separation in order to gain custody of the children
 - 3) One spouse files for legal separation in order to gain financial support and split assets
 - 4) One spouse files for divorce in order to gain custody, financial support and split assets
- D) A lawsuit is filed against the church for damages sustained by a parishioner while on church property. Include in your answer the responsibility the individual has toward his own injury, the church has toward an injured parishioner, how to avoid / mitigate / rescind the lawsuit, and the role the church’s insurance will play in liability toward medical bills.
- E) A lawsuit is filed against the church for defamation by a former church member who was disciplined.