

## I Corinthians 6: 1-8 – Summary

### A. Outline<sup>A</sup>

1. Party Spirit in the Church, chs 1-4<sup>B</sup>
2. Moral Disorders in the Church, chs 5-7 – *to be filled in as we go through this section in order to give the context of what has been written.*
  - a. Ch. 5 A Stern Rebuke; Dealing with Sin, Specific & General
    - i. 5:1-8 (Paul focusses on) Specific Immorality Addressed; Rebuking Immorality; Recognising & Dealing with Sin; Sin Defiles the Church
    - ii. 5:9-13 Purify the Church; Immorality (Sin) Requires Judgement  
Separate Yourselves from the Unworthy
  - b. Ch. 6
    - i. 6:1-8 Bases for Judgement; Don't Take a Brother to Court, But to the Church
    - ii. 6:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. 6:12-20 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Ch. 7
    - i. 7:1-9 \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. 7:10-16 \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. 7:17-24 \_\_\_\_\_
    - iv. 7:25-40 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Social Relations in the Church, chs 8-11
4. Spiritual Gifts in the Church, chs 12-14
5. Fundamental Doctrine of the Church, ch 15
6. Conclusion of the Letter, ch 16

### B. I Corinthians 6: 1-8 – **DIY**, or, see the titles above

1. (1-3): Our Responsibility of Judgement; "You Do the Judging"
  - a. verse 1 – Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbour, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?
    - i. Key idea(s):– Let the church decide legal matters; Laws of heathen unsuited to settling matters between believers; Don't settle differences in secular courts; Their wrong lawsuits
    - ii. Who are these saints (1 Cor. 1:2)? – Believers with ALL that implies.
    - iii. What makes this surprising in light of 1 Cor. 5? – Their attitudes and actions do not match what they really are in Jesus Christ.
    - iv. What makes this unexpected in light of 1 Cor. 1-4? – They boasted in their particular 'leader' but failed to follow their ultimate leader, the Lord, Jesus.
  - b. verse 2 – Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?
    - i. Key idea(s):– They should be able to do this (judge) ...; Wisdom makes us competent to judge; Saints will judge world so can judge minor matters; Their

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competence to judge.

- ii. What is covered by "the smallest law courts?" – other translations are "the smallest matters" (NKJV), "trivial cases" (NIV), "petty matters" (Weymouth) – similar to today's "small claims court"
  - c. verse 3 – Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?
    - i. Key idea(s):– ... since we shall judge world and angels; Future judgement of angels; Confirmation of status as judges; The extent of this competence.
    - ii. Read Acts 17:31 (Jesus is the Judge); what then is our part in this judging? – (1) virtual judgement by our lives (2 Corinthians 2:14-16); (2) judge=rule; see 2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 20:6; (3) we = the church as part of her union with Christ
2. (4-6) – No Secular Courts! Judgement by the Saints; Proper Judgement; Shame on You!
    - a. verse 4 – If then you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? NB: commentators disagree much
      - i. Key idea(s):– (1) Unbelievably you appoint those unworthy; They chose those unsuited to judge (2) Why be judged by unbelievers? Inapplicability of secular judges.
      - ii. "who are of no account in the church" – to help us to see others' viewpoints!!!
        - 1) reasons to understand as secular judges are:– the context of verses 1, 6
        - 2) reasons to understand as least notable in church are: AV translation, 'the least esteemed in the church'; command, 'appoint the least esteemed to judge'
    - b. verse 5 – I say *this* to your shame. *Is it so, that* there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, NB: 5a ends sentence of verse 4
      - i. Key idea(s):– Choose a wise brother to judge; Not one wise man is to their shame; Rebuke for not using those gifted with wisdom among them.
      - ii. From 1 Cor 1-4, why should choosing a wise man not have been a problem? – if they had been listening to any one of their claimed teachers, they would not have had a problem in choosing a wise man.
    - c. verse 6 – but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?
      - i. Key idea(s):– Their disputes handled amiss; Emphasises wrong in taking internal church strife outside the church; Christians seeking judgement by unbelievers.
      - ii. How was this an especial shame to the Corinthian church? – immaturity; they were boasting about their leaders and then getting caught in petty grievances.
  3. Titles (7-8): Even if You Win, You Lose! Don't Wrong Your Brother
    - a. verse 7 – Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?
      - i. Key idea(s):– Their defeat by insisting on their rights; Lawsuits show failure; Should be settled by Matthew 5:39-42 (turn your other cheek to an evil person)
      - ii. Explain what this defeat was – in their: ... Impaired witness; ... Not growing; ... Lack of love (Jn 13:3) or Uncharitableness; ... Disobedience
    - b. verse 8 – On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that your brethren.
      - i. Key idea(s):– Such actions wrong brothers; No underlying attitude of love and forgiveness remains when heathen courts involved; Some of you wrong brothers.
      - ii. How did their actions constitute wronging & defrauding? – Not doing their duty; Giving wrong examples of correction; Placing a brother before a heathen court rather than one of Christian brethren, and its inevitable results.