

CALLED TO BE SAINTS **TOGETHER**

Whatever Happened to Church Authority?

1 Corinthians 6:1-8 (ESV)

¹When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? ²Or 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? ³Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! ⁴So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, ⁶but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? ⁷To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? ⁸But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers!

The **scenario**:

Some **important considerations**:

- 1) This is a continuation from ch. 5 regarding the role and _____ of the church.
- 2) This is about _____ issues, not _____ ones.

When it comes to criminal issues, our responsibilities are clear:

Romans 13:3-4 (ESV)

³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

- 3) This is about more than just _____.

The **bigger issues:**

Our _____ to the world ...

What do our conflicts say about our _____?

What do our conflicts reveal about our _____?

What is our _____ to the world?

Our higher _____ ...

Do our _____ align?

Do we measure _____ the same?

Applying _____ to everyday life ...

How can we “_____” if we can’t live out the implications of Scripture in daily life?

Our _____ of the _____ ...

We have a stripped-down, _____ view of the church!

The church is an “eschatological community”. This means ...

We tend to struggle with _____ to the degree we see ourselves as “_____” with rights and authority of our own.

Where does authority rightly exist in the local church?

Our spiritual _____ ...

Do I demonstrate _____ or _____?

Do I cling to my _____ or do I give them up?

Am I like the world or like Christ? (Phil. 2:1–11; 1 Pet. 2:19–21)