

Sunday, July 3, 2016—I Corinthians 6:1-3: We Shall Judge Angels

### Introduction

- Last week we finished our study of I Corinthians 5. This morning we are going to begin looking at chapter 6. While Paul has concluded giving his judgment regarding the fornication spoken of in chapter 5 verse 1, he is not done dealing with the Corinthians regarding their carnality and lack of spiritual discernment.
- There are two primary issues that Paul deals with the Corinthians on in chapter 6.
  - Verses 1-11—legal disputes among believers.
  - Verses 12-20—the believer’s body as the temple of God.

### I Corinthians 6:1

- **Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?**
- Paul begins chapter 6 by peppering the Corinthians with a series of questions regarding their conduct. Note that verses 1 through 3 are all questions.
- Paul opens chapter 6 by saying “dare any of you.” The English verb “dare” means “to have courage to any purpose; to have strength of mind or hardihood to undertake anything; to be bold enough; not to be afraid; to venture; to be adventurous,” according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*.
- According to both the English Dictionary and *Strong’s Concordance*, the word “durst” is also associated with the word “dare.”
  - Matthew 22:46
  - Mark 15:43—“bodily”
  - Acts 7:34
  - Romans 5:7
  - II Corinthians 10:12
- In essence, Paul opens up chapter 6 by asking the Corinthians, “How dare you?”

- In chapter 5 we saw that the Corinthians exercising a complete lack of judgment with respect to the fornication they were tolerating within their midst. Now in chapter 6, we see that their lack of judgment extended into the mismanagement of legal matters as well.
- The believers in Corinth were taking their personal legal disputes before the secular authorities. Rather than having the saints in the assembly judge the matter they were airing all their dirty laundry in public.
- In essence, Paul says, “How dare you behave in this manner?”
  - I Corinthians 6:5

### **I Corinthians 6:2**

- **Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?**
- Why is it wrong for the Corinthians to go to law before the unjust and not before the saints (v. 1)? Because as saints, the Corinthians are going to judge the world. The expressing “shall judge” is in the future tense and the indicative mood. In other words, Paul is describing something that will happen in the future. The Corinthians will “judge the world.”
- We will look at what world the Corinthians will judge when we study verse 3.
- So if the world is going to be judged by the Corinthians are they unworthy to judge the smallest matters? In other words, if you guys are in the future going to judge the world why are you not handling these small petty matters yourselves? Why are you going to law before the unjust?
- In the future the Corinthians are going to do this big important thing i.e., they are going to judge the world. Yet, in the present they are not even properly handling their own petty disputes properly.
- The issue here is not just that it is embarrassing for believers to sue one another in a court of law. It’s more fundamentally basic than that. It’s that behaving in this manner is out of step with why God formed the body of Christ in the first place. The Corinthians are demonstrating their complete lack of spiritual discernment.

### **I Corinthians 6:3**

- **Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?**
- What world are the Corinthians going to judge in verse 2? We already know from our study of Chapter 5 that God is going to judge the world of the lost.

- I Corinthians 5:10, 12-13—so in the context it can't be that the Corinthians are going to judge the lost. That is God's job.
- So then what world are the Corinthians going to judge? The world or realm of the angels in verse 3.
- Once again the expression “shall judge angels” is in the future active indicative statement.
  - Tense—future, the action will take place in the future.
  - Voice—active, the Corinthians will perform the action.
  - Mood—indicative, there is no doubt as to whether or not the action will take place in the future.
- In the future, the Corinthians, and by extension the entire body of Christ are going to judge the world (v. 2). What world are they going to judge? The world or realm of the angels (v. 3).
- Notice the parallelism in this passage of scripture. The first question in verse 2 is paired with the first question in verse 3.
  - “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?”
    - “Know ye not that we shall judge angels?”
- Likewise, the second question in verse 2 is paired with the second question in verse 3.
  - “and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”
    - “how much more things that pertain to this life?”
- The “smallest matters” from verse 2 are defined as the “things that pertain to this life” in verse 3. Whatever the petty disputes of the Corinthians were pale in comparison to the function of judging angels that the body of Christ will fulfill in the future. How could Paul say that these things are small matters?
  - II Corinthians 4:17-18—they pail in comparison to eternity.
- Last week, we observed a similar parallel structure in chapter 5 verses 12 and 13. The first part of verse 12 is paired with the first part of verse 13.
  - “For what have I to do to judge them also that are without?”
    - “But them that are without god judeth.”

- Similarly, the second part of verse 12 is answered by the second part of verse 13.
  - “do no ye judge them that are within?”
    - “Therefore, put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”
- So consider what we have learned about judgment in chapters 5 and 6.
  - I Corinthians 5:12-13—who judges the lost outside of the local church? God
  - I Corinthians 6:1-3—who is to judge the affairs of the assembly? The saints comprising that assembly.
  - I Corinthians 5:3-5—as the apostle of the gentiles, Paul had the authority to do so if the saints would not.
  - I Corinthians 6:2-3—the body of Christ is going to serve the function of judging the angelic world in the future.
- Next, week will consider the details and mechanics of how this judgment of the angels functions. For now, just understand that Paul rebukes the Corinthians for their lack of discernment within the assembly on the basis of the fact that they will one day perform the function of judging the angelic world. This contrast to meant to highlight their complete lack of spiritual immaturity in the present.