

The Difference Between “Were” and “Are”, Part 1

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I Corinthians 6:1-11 ¹If any of you has a grievance against another, how dare he go to law before the unrighteous instead of before the saints! ²Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴So if you need to settle everyday matters, do you appoint as judges those of no standing in the church? ⁵I say this to your shame. Is there really no one among you wise enough to arbitrate between his brothers? ⁶Instead, one brother goes to law against another, and this in front of unbelievers! ⁷The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means that you are thoroughly defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, even against your own brothers! ⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (BSB)

I. What are the details of this passage?

- A. Christians are not to settle their differences in a public forum. V. 1
1 Corinthians 13:5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. (BSB)
- B. We are supposed to have a wisdom inside us that will allow us to pass judgment against other humans as well as angels on judgment day. V. 2-3
- C. Local churches must discover ways to settle disputes in house using the wisdom that we already have in our fellowship. V. 4-6
- D. We should prefer overlooking or forgiving an offense before we expose the local church to public shame. V. 7
- E. We must deal with each other in a godly manner. V. 8

II. What can we learn and apply from this passage?

- A. We must protect the public reputation of our local church. There will be issues and events that happen here and there is no need for the outside world to know about them. Forgiveness and restoration of relationship has got to be our goal in our dealing with conflict. The world cannot comprehend our level of forgiveness and restoration that we can do.
- B. The local church needs to function using all the God given resources that are available to us. Everyone is a perfect 10 when it comes to finding their niche in the life of the body.
- C. Matthew 18 gives us a blueprint for keeping disputes straight lines. This works well when actually implemented.
- D. There are times when we overlook offenses personally done to us. Not every little issue needs to become a big deal. Big deals need to be limited to those issues that threaten to destroy the local church.
- E. We must seek to put things in the past and function in the present by being Holy Spirit led.