

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 6:1–11** carefully at least twice. Pay attention to Paul’s tone, the problem he confronts, and how he grounds his teaching in their new identity in Christ.

Observation Prompts:

- What issue is Paul addressing?
- What rhetorical questions does Paul ask?
- What contrasts does Paul make?
- What truths about salvation and identity are highlighted?

Read the passage and note what you see:

What is the problem Paul confronts in verses 1–2?

What future role for believers does Paul remind them of? (vv.2–3)

What does Paul say about going before unbelievers for judgment? (vv.4–6)

What alternative does Paul suggest instead of lawsuits? (vv.7–8)

What warning does Paul give in verses 9–10?

How does Paul describe their transformation in verse 11?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul confronts the Corinthians for their worldly behavior: believers suing each other in secular courts. He challenges them to remember their calling, their future role in God’s kingdom, and their new identity in Christ.

Questions to Explore:

Why is it a problem for believers to bring their disputes before secular courts? (vv.1–2, 6)

Why does Paul suggest it would be better to be wronged than to take another believer to court? (vv.7–8)

What does Paul’s warning about the unrighteous not inheriting the kingdom reveal about sin’s seriousness? (vv.9–10)

What does verse 11 teach us about salvation and identity in Christ?
What does it mean to be washed, sanctified, and justified?



Word Study Suggestions:

- **Judge (v.2):** Greek *krinō* — to decide, rule, or give verdict.
- **Wronged/Defrauded (vv.7–8):** to cheat, act unjustly, or take advantage.
- **Unrighteous (v.9):** those whose lives are marked by rebellion against God.
- **Washed (v.11):** to be cleansed from sin through Christ’s blood.
- **Sanctified (v.11):** set apart as holy for God.
- **Justified (v.11):** declared righteous before God by faith in Jesus.

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

Paul's words remind us that the church is called to live differently from the world. Our identity in Christ shapes how we treat one another, handle conflict, and walk in holiness.

Personal Reflection:

How do I usually respond to conflict — by seeking to win, or by seeking to honor Christ?

Am I more concerned with my rights, or with displaying Christlike humility?

Where might I need to choose to “be wronged” rather than damage Christ’s witness?

Do I take sin seriously, or do I minimize it? How does this passage challenge me?

How does remembering that I have been washed, sanctified, and justified change the way I live today?

Summary Truths:

- Believers are called to resolve conflict within the body of Christ, not in worldly courts.
- It is better to be wronged than to bring shame to Christ's name through division.
- The unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom — sin is not to be taken lightly.
- Our identity is transformed: we are washed, sanctified, and justified in Christ.
- Because of this identity, we are called to live differently than the world.

Optional Memory Verse:

“And such were some of you. 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.”
— 1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord, help me to seek peace and unity in Your church rather than insisting on my own way. Teach me to value my identity in You more than my rights. Thank You for washing, sanctifying, and justifying me through Christ.”

For Further Study:

- Matthew 18:15–20 — Jesus’ teaching on resolving conflict in the church
- Romans 12:17–21 — Do not repay evil for evil
- Colossians 3:12–15 — Clothed with compassion, bearing with one another