



[1 Corinthians 6:1-3](#)

(1) If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? (2) Do 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? (3) Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

[Matthew 5:7](#)

(7) Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

New International Version

In a broad sense, Paul is teaching that we are to learn to deal with situations as [God](#) would, and our training ground is here in this life and in the church. We are undergoing extensive hands-on training for the profession of judge, which, as Paul implies, will be among our duties as children of God in His Kingdom. This is no minor matter!

Earlier in my [conversion](#), I clearly left out one of the most important elements needed for making right judgments. [Jesus](#) points out which one in His [Sermon on the Mount](#): "Blessed are the [merciful](#), for they shall obtain mercy" ([Matthew 5:7](#)). Had I shown more mercy in those situations, their outcomes would have been far different—and definitely better.

Generally, the merciful are those people who are affected by the suffering of others. They are affected in a manner that causes them, not only to offer encouragement to one who is experiencing a rough spot in his life, but also to work to lessen his suffering.

The New Unger's Bible Dictionary defines *mercy* as "a form of [love](#) determined by the state or condition of its objects. Their state is one of suffering and need, while they may

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 1 Corinthians 6:1-3 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
be unworthy or ill-deserving. Mercy is at once the disposition of love respecting such, and the kindly ministry of love for their relief."

A secular dictionary, *The Reader's Digest Encyclopedic Dictionary*, concurs: *Mercy* is the "kind, compassionate treatment of an offender, adversary, prisoner in one's power; compassion where severity is expected, or deserved." Among its synonyms are "leniency," "compassion," "[forgiveness](#)," "pity," "[kindness](#)," "tolerance," "charity," "benevolence," "clemency," and "forbearance."

The primary idea behind mercy is rendering a kindness when harshness or condemnation is expected or even deserved. A merciful person looks beyond the present state of affairs to the potential good that may result from his compassionate handling of the matter. He is willing to forgo the other's punishment, his "just deserts," or his own desire for revenge in an attempt to produce good fruit from a bad situation.

The nature of God is to be merciful to those He calls. We know that He calls the weak, foolish, and base ([1 Corinthians 1:26-28](#)), those who are undesirable in society's eyes and guilty of [sin](#) in His eyes. He extends great mercy to them, redeeming them from the death penalty and setting them on the path toward [eternal life](#) in the [Kingdom of God](#). In doing so, He sets us an example to follow!

— John O. Reid

To learn more, see:

[Mercy: The Better Option](#)

Related Topics:

[Compassion](#)

[Death, Redemption from](#)

[God calls Weak, Foolish, and Base](#)

[God's Compassion](#)

[God's Mercy](#)

[Judge, Qualifying to be](#)

[Kindness](#)

[Leniency](#)

[Revenge](#)

[Sermon on the Mount](#)

[Showing Mercy](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 1 Corinthians 6:1-3 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

Suffering

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)
New International Version copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#)