



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

(1) Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? (2) Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

## [Matthew 5:7](#)

(7) Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

*New King James 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 be unworthy or ill-deserving. Mercy is at once the disposition of love respecting such,

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

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