

# Can A Christian Pursue Legal Actions?

This is a question that has been within the brotherhood for years. Am I as a Christian allowed to pursue legal actions? Is okay for me to sue someone and take them to court? There has been some confusion about this question, and I hope that we can answer some of these questions on this matter.

In **I Corinthians 6:1-8** is where I would like to look on this matter. The brethren in Corinth had become so corrupt that disputes among brethren were going to the court. Was this the way they were to act? Brethren going against brethren and then going to the court to settle accounts was their way of handling matters. Paul in fact rebukes them some for such actions. Brethren should be able to manage matters between themselves. If matters of sin, then that was to be managed between themselves and if not, there is a way of handling matters (**Matthew 18:15-17**). However, this is not what we are focusing on today. Paul states that for brethren to go after each other and then use the court, expecting justice may not have the outcome that we would want!

However, if there are matters with others in this world what could we do? Is it okay to go to the courts to manage such matters if necessary? Some would argue and say that we cannot do such things using **Matthew 5:38-42**. Stating that we must go the extra mile to help others. While I agree that we are to go the extra mile does that mean we are to be just a pushover and allow everyone to take advantage of us because we are Christians!

There are times where we use the courts to exercise judgment on matters. The two women used King Solomon to settle the dispute of who the living child belonged to (**I Kings 3**). Paul when he was arrested and making his testimony known he finally “appealed to Caesar” (**Acts 25:11**) and Festus responded then to Caesar you will go. Paul requested the court to help in this matter. There are moments where the government may be needed, and God has ordained such to execute wrath and judgment in this world.

In **Romans 13:1-7** we are too subject to the laws of the land. If we choose not to be civil and obedient to laws of the land, there is a reason to be afraid! Because judgment can and will be passed down to us! We have a responsibility to live and obey the laws of our country. It should not impede our ability to worship and obey God! However, there may be times to use the full effect of the court to manage different civil matters.

One thing that I must stress with this is to not use it as just means of retaliation! (**Romans 12:17-18**) ***“If is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written; “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY SAYS THE LORD.”*** If we are using the ability to sue or go to court must not be just for a means of retaliation. That is not what it is meant to be used for. That is an abuse of such things and not how we are to act. However, if it is used for different purposes, it can be used. Whether it is a matter of paying debts back or even holding people or companies accountable for their own actions, the courts may be used to settle those matters!

**EXERCISE WISDOM AND PRAY ABOUT THESE MATTERS ALWAYS! (James 1:5)!**

**Daniel N Sanders**