

1 Corinthians 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

Analysis

Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. The accusation intensifies: *alla* (ἀλλά, 'but/rather') signals reversal. Instead of suffering wrong, they inflict it. *Adikeite* (ἀδικεῖτε, 'you wrong') and *apostereite* (ἀποστερεῖτε, 'you defraud')—the same verbs from verse 7, now active. The irony is brutal: lawsuit plaintiffs claim to seek justice, but Paul sees their litigation as injustice itself.

And that your brethren (καὶ ταῦτα ἀδελφούς) adds a tragic coda. *Tauta* ('these things') refers to wrongs committed; *adelphous* ('brothers') reminds of kinship. Defrauding family members betrays both covenant (Leviticus 19:13) and Christ's command (John 13:34-35: 'love one another'). Their lawsuits aren't righteousness but fratricide—Cain-like violence in a courtroom.

Historical Context

Ancient lawsuits often involved property, debt, or inheritance—common among the rising merchant class in Corinth. But using Roman courts to seize assets from fellow Christians violated Torah justice (Exodus 22, Deuteronomy 15) and Christ's ethic. Paul sees litigation as *pleonexia* (πλεονεξία, 'greed, covetousness')—the desire to have more, even at brothers' expense. This vice reappears in verse 10's catalog of those who won't inherit God's kingdom.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. In what ways might you be 'defrauding' fellow Christians—taking advantage financially, relationally, or through manipulation?
2. How does Paul's accusation challenge the assumption that legal victory equals moral righteousness?
3. What restitution or reconciliation do you need to pursue with a brother or sister you've wronged?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ ὑμεῖς ἀδικεῖτε καὶ ἀποστερεῖτε καὶ ταῦτα
Nay ye do wrong and defraud and that
G235 G5210 G91 G2532 G650 G2532 G5023

ἀδελφούς

your brethren

G80

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 4:6 (Parallel theme): That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

Colossians 3:25 (Parallel theme): But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.