# Godly Wisdom for Resolving Conflicts Within the Church



Explore Paul's wisdom in 1 Corinthians 6 on handling legal disputes among believers with grace, patience, and Christ-like love.





## Table of contents

<u>Introduction</u>	3
Day 1: Facing Conflict Biblically	5
<u>Day 2: Wisdom in Handling Disputes</u>	11
<u>Day 3: Avoiding Shameful Behavior</u>	17
<u>Day 4: W Pursuing Peace and Unity</u>	23
Day 5: A Trusting God's Justice	29
Day 6: Bearing with One Another in Love	35
Day 7: 🐪 Walking in God's Wisdom Daily	41







## Introduction

Conflict among believers can be challenging, especially when it escalates to the point of legal disputes. Paul addresses this sensitive issue in 1 Corinthians 6, urging the church to seek wisdom that honors God and promotes unity. This study will guide you through God's perspective on handling disagreements and lawsuits within the body of Christ, emphasizing patience, humility, and spiritual maturity.

Wisdom from God is more than knowledge; it is the ability to apply godly principles in difficult situations. When Christian brothers and sisters face trials involving legal actions against one another, it calls for deep reflection and obedience to God's Word. Paul does not dismiss the reality of conflict but challenges believers to pursue reconciliation and exercise faith before resorting to secular courts.

Over the next seven days, we will meditate on Paul's guidance, absorb related scriptures, and ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in cultivating wisdom that builds up the church rather than tearing it down. Whether you are directly involved in a legal dispute or seeking to understand how to navigate such challenges, this study invites you to embrace humility, love, and patience that transform conflict into an opportunity for growth and witness.

Let us open our minds and hearts to God's word and ask for wisdom that surpasses human reasoning, reminding us that **our decisions reflect not only on ourselves but on the body of Christ**. May this time strengthen your walk







with the Lord and deepen your commitment to unity and peace within the church as we learn from Paul's inspired instructions. 🙏









# Day 1: Facing Conflict Biblically









Day 1: Facing Conflict Biblically

## Your Verse

1 Corinthians 6:1 NIV – "If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people?"

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 18:15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you."
- Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."







Day 1: Facing Conflict Biblically

## Devotional: Seek Restoration Within the Church

Today, Paul challenges believers about the seriousness of taking fellow Christians to secular courts. This strikes at the heart of our witness and unity. When disputes arise, God's design for the church is to seek restoration within the community before appealing to outside authorities. This approach reflects humility, trust in God's justice, and concern for the body.

Matthew 18:15 underscores the importance of addressing offenses privately first, modeling Jesus' emphasis on reconciliation over punishment. Paul's words caution us about the dangers of airing the church's dirty laundry before the world. This does not mean ignoring justice or truth but prioritizing relationships and spiritual maturity in resolving conflicts.

In choosing to resolve disputes within the church, we build stronger bonds and reflect God's grace. Ask yourself today: Are you willing to approach disagreements with a heart open to peace and understanding? Consider the impact that public lawsuits might have on the faith community and your witness to the world.







Day 1: <a>E</a> Facing Conflict Biblically

# Reflect and Apply

1.	Why might Paul consider it unwise to take disputes before 'the ungodly'?
3.	How do personal attitudes affect the process of reconciliation?
	What benefits come from resolving conflicts within the church before involving outsiders?







Day 1: <a>E</a> Facing Conflict Biblically

# **Journaling Prompts**

Describe a time you faced conflict within a Christian community. How was it resolved?
Reflect on your feelings about confronting a brother or sister with an offense.
List ways you can promote peace and reconciliation in future disagreements.







Day 1: <a>E</a> Facing Conflict Biblically

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, grant me the wisdom to pursue peace** and restoration when conflicts arise. Help me to approach others with humility and grace, remembering that we are all part of Your family. Guide me to seek Your will above my own desires, and may my actions glorify You rather than cause division. Strengthen my heart to forgive and my mind to be patient, trusting that You are the ultimate judge. *In Jesus' Name, Amen.*  $\bigwedge$ 















## Your Verse

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 NIV - "Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? ... Do you not know that we will judge angels?"

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 3:17 "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive..."
- Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him..."







## Devotional: Trust God's Wisdom to Judge Conflicts

Paul reminds believers that as God's people, we are called to exercise godly wisdom and judgment. This is a staggering truth — we will one day judge the world and even angels! If we are entrusted with such authority, it follows that we should be capable of resolving disputes among ourselves.

This passage encourages deep trust in God's wisdom rather than earthly methods. True wisdom, as James describes, is pure, peace-loving, and considerate. Applying such wisdom means approaching conflicts with a desire to restore rather than condemn. Our decisions should mirror godly character, demonstrating maturity and love.

Proverbs reminds us to trust the Lord entirely and not rely on our own insight. When faced with legal issues or disagreements, turning to Scripture and prayer, rather than immediate legal recourse, helps us remain grounded.

Consider the privilege and responsibility to exercise discernment within the church community. How can your attitude and choice today reflect this calling?







# Reflect and Apply

	What qualities of godly wisdom can you cultivate when handling disputes?
2.	How does understanding our future role as judges encourage responsible conflict resolution now?
3.	In what ways might relying on God's wisdom change your approach to disagreements?







# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a situation where human wisdom failed to resolve conflict peacefully.
2.	How can you seek and identify godly wisdom in challenging disputes?
3.	List practical steps to apply biblical wisdom when disagreements arise.







## Prayer for Today

**Father, teach me to rely on Your wisdom** in every conflict I face. Help me to judge fairly and lovingly, reflecting Your peace and purity. Remind me that I am part of Your body and called to represent You in all decisions. May I always seek Your guidance above my own understanding and act with grace toward others. *In Jesus' Name, Amen.* 

















Day 3: Avoiding Shameful Behavior

## Your Verse

1 Corinthians 6:5 NIV - "I say this to shame those of you who use the law against your fellow believers..."

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Galatians 6:1 "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently..."
- Ephesians 4:31–32 "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger... Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other..."







Day 3: Avoiding Shameful Behavior

## Devotional: Choose Forgiveness Over Lawsuits

Paul's tone sharpens as he points out the shame in suing fellow believers; it reveals a heart divided from Christ's unity. Christians are called to model forgiveness and restoration rather than resorting to hostile legal battles.

Galatians encourages gentleness and spiritual restoration, not condemnation or adversarial attitudes. Legal disputes can escalate bitterness and division if not carefully handled with love and patience.

Ephesians reminds us that bitterness and anger have no place in the family of God. Instead, kindness and forgiveness should define our interactions.

The root problem is often pride and impatience. Reflect on how choosing legal action against a brother or sister might dishonor the gospel and cause unnecessary pain. How can you cultivate a spirit that chooses restoration over reputation or revenge?







Day 3: O Avoiding Shameful Behavior

# Reflect and Apply

1.	How does suing a fellow believer bring shame to the church?
	What attitudes do Paul and the other writers warn us to avoid when facing conflict?
	How can forgiveness play a role in resolving legal disputes within the body of Christ?







Day 3: O Avoiding Shameful Behavior

# **Journaling Prompts**

	Recall a time when anger tempted you to take harsh action. How did forgiveness help?
2.	Write about ways bitterness affects your relationship with others.
3.	List practical ways you can foster a forgiving spirit in conflicts.







Day 3: Avoiding Shameful Behavior

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, soften my heart** to forgive and restore rather than seek legal retaliation. Teach me humility and patience when wronged by a brother or sister. May I reflect Your love by choosing kindness over anger, reconciliation over division. Help me guard my heart against bitterness and embrace Your peace. *Thank You for Your endless grace. Amen.*  $\swarrow$   $\swarrow$ 

















Day 4: W Pursuing Peace and Unity

## Your Verse

1 Corinthians 6:7 NIV - "The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already."

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 14:19 "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."
- Hebrews 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy."







Day 4: W Pursuing Peace and Unity

## Devotional: Choose the Path of Peace and Victory

Paul's words indicate that lawsuits between believers signal a deeper spiritual defeat. The body of Christ is meant to reflect unity, forgiveness, and peace, not division through legal battles.

Romans and Hebrews both urge believers to pursue peace and mutual encouragement with diligence. This pursuit is not passive but active and intentional.

Disputes handled well can lead to growth, but lawsuits among believers indicate broken relationships that need repair. Reflect on the cost of allowing conflicts to escalate publicly and how choosing peace brings God's healing.

Ask yourself: What steps can I take to promote unity and reconciliation before matters worsen?







Day 4: 🐯 Pursuing Peace and Unity

# Reflect and Apply

1.	Why does Paul consider lawsuits among believers a form of defeat?
2.	What does pursuing peace require from each believer?
3.	How can you be a peacemaker within your faith community?







Day 4: 🐯 Pursuing Peace and Unity

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about an example where reconciliation led to healing.
2.	Identify obstacles that prevent peace and unity in your relationships.
3.	Plan specific actions you can take to foster mutual edification.







Day 4: 🐯 Pursuing Peace and Unity

## Prayer for Today

Father, help me to strive for peace in every relationship and avoid division. Teach me to value unity in the body above winning arguments or protecting pride. Strengthen my resolve to be a peacemaker, reflecting Your love and grace. May Your Spirit guide me in restoring broken bonds and living in harmony with others. *In Jesus' Name, Amen.* 

















## Your Verse

Romans 12:17–19 NIV – "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath... It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord."

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 37:5 "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this."
- Proverbs 20:22 "Do not say, 'I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the Lord, and he will avenge you."







## Devotional: Release Revenge; Trust God's Justice

**Legal disputes sometimes stem from the desire for personal justice or revenge.** However, Scripture repeatedly calls believers to relinquish this urge and trust God to defend and vindicate.

Romans 12 reminds us that revenge belongs to God alone. Psalm 37 and Proverbs reinforce the promise that when we commit our struggles to the Lord, He will act on our behalf.

This requires profound faith and patience. Instead of lawsuits, believers are encouraged to pray and trust, knowing God's timing and justice are perfect.

Reflect today on your trust level. Are you holding tightly to your right to be 'made whole,' or are you willing to entrust these matters into God's hands?







# Reflect and Apply

	What challenges do you face in trusting God over taking legal matters into your own hands?
2.	How does God's promise of justice bring peace amid conflict?
3.	What steps can help deepen your reliance on God's timing?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time you overcame the desire for revenge.
2.	Describe what 'leaving room for God's wrath' looks like in your life.
3.	List scriptures and prayers that encourage trust in God's justice.







## Prayer for Today

**Lord, I surrender my desire for revenge** and legal retaliation. Help me to trust fully in Your justice and timing. Give me patience and peace as I commit this situation into Your hands. Teach me to walk humbly and to love those who have wronged me, trusting that You will make all things right. *Thank You for being my defender. Amen.*















#### Your Verse

Ephesians 4:2–3 NIV – "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone..."
- 1 Peter 4:8 "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."







## Devotional: Cultivate Love to Preserve Unity

Paul's exhortation in Ephesians captures the heart attitude needed to heal conflicts within the church. Humility, gentleness, patience, and love are the pillars that sustain unity despite disagreements.

Colossians adds the call to forgive grievances, while Peter highlights love's powerful ability to cover sins and bind believers together.

Applying these truths when dispute arises is counter-cultural in a lawsuit-prone world. Yet, it aligns us with Christ's model and transforms relationships rather than destroying them.

Reflect today on how bearing with one another in love requires daily intentional choices. How can you cultivate humility and patience as you navigate trials with fellow believers?







# Reflect and Apply

1.	In what ways can humility and gentleness diffuse tensions in disagreements?
2.	How does love enable forgiveness and restoration?
3.	What practical habits help maintain unity in difficult relationships?







# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about someone you struggle to bear with; how can love change that dynamic?
2.	Reflect on moments when patience helped avert a legal conflict.
3.	List concrete steps to practice humility and forgiveness daily.







# **Prayer for Today**















## Your Verse

James 1:5 NIV – "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 2:6 "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."
- Colossians 1:9 "...we continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives."







## Devotional: Daily Dependence on God's Wisdom

As we close this study, James offers a powerful promise for those seeking wisdom. God gives wisdom generously and without reproach, inviting us to depend on Him daily, especially in challenging relationships.

Proverbs declares that all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding come from the Lord. Paul's prayer for the Colossians echoes this, stressing that the Spirit equips us to live wisely in God's will.

Each day presents new opportunities to apply godly wisdom in how we relate to others, including conflicts. Rather than relying on human measures such as lawsuits, we are called to walk in spiritual discernment empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Today, ask God to fill you anew with wisdom to live at peace, uphold love, and foster unity, trusting His guidance in every decision.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	How often do you seek God's wisdom before acting in conflicts?
	What difference does spiritual discernment make in handling challenges?
3.	How can you cultivate a habit of asking God for wisdom daily?







# **Journaling Prompts**

Write a prayer asking God for wisdom in your current relationships.
Describe how God has shown wisdom in past conflict situations.
Plan daily practices to nurture your dependence on the Holy Spirit.







## Prayer for Today

**Lord, I come before You today asking for Your wisdom** in every area of my life, especially in relationships within the church. Teach me to listen to Your Spirit and to make choices that honor You. Help me to walk humbly and peacefully, representing Christ well in all I do. Thank You for Your generous gift of wisdom and understanding. *In Jesus' powerful Name, Amen.*  $\nearrow$ 







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