## Walking in Wisdom: Resolving Church Conflicts



A 7-day study exploring Godly wisdom to navigate and resolve disputes within the church without resorting to courts.





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#### Introduction

**Wisdom** is one of God's greatest gifts to His people. It guides our decisions, shapes our relationships, and illuminates paths when challenges arise. Within a church community, disagreements and disputes can cause hurt and division, but when handled with Godly wisdom, they become opportunities for growth, restoration, and unity.

As believers committed to the body of Christ, it's vital to approach conflicts—especially legal disputes within the church—with humility, prayer, and scripture-based guidance rather than relying on secular courts. The Bible offers profound counsel on how to pursue peace among followers, encouraging us to seek reconciliation and wise counsel first.

This 7-day study plan will help you dive deep into Scripture to understand the nature of wisdom, why God calls us to handle disputes internally, and how to cultivate wise responses that honor Him and protect the unity of your church family. Expect to be challenged and encouraged to embody wisdom, humility, and grace in difficult situations.

Let's embark on this journey toward becoming peacemakers who reflect God's heart perfectly, moving beyond conflict into restoration and fellowship. Wisdom in the church is not just about knowledge—it's about living out the truth of Christ in every interaction, especially in conflict.







## Day 1: **B** Understanding Godly Wisdom









Day 1: 💋 Understanding Godly Wisdom

#### Your Verse

James 1:5 – "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."
- Ecclesiastes 7:12 "Wisdom preserves those who have it."







Day 1: **B** Understanding Godly Wisdom

#### Devotional: Begin with God: Ask for Divine Wisdom

Wisdom begins with God. When Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers," He highlighted the value of Godly wisdom in resolving conflict. James reminds us that wisdom is not simply human cleverness; it's a divine gift available when we humbly ask God. For disputes within the church, the starting point must always be prayerfully seeking God's wisdom — the kind that leads to patience, understanding, and peace rather than litigation.

Consider *why* we often rush to legal action: fear, pride, or a desire for control. But God calls us instead to trust His guidance and timing. As we learn to lean on Him, wisdom will protect relationships and foster unity instead of division. It's a lifelong pursuit, growing stronger as we apply Scripture and trust God's heart.







Day 1: **//** Understanding Godly Wisdom

## Reflect and Apply

1.	What is my current understanding of wisdom from God's perspective?
	How have I handled conflicts in the past—did I rely on God's wisdom or my own?
3.	Am I willing to pray for wisdom before reacting to disputes in my church community?







Day 1: **//** Understanding Godly Wisdom

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe a recent conflict you've experienced. How did you respond?
2.	Write down what asking God for wisdom means to you personally.
3.	Make a list of qualities that characterize Godly wisdom.







Day 1: **B** Understanding Godly Wisdom

#### Prayer for Today







# Day 2: Handling Disputes Within the Church









Day 2: Mandling Disputes Within the Church

#### Your Verse

1 Corinthians 6:1-2 - "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."
- Galatians 6:1 "Restore gently, but watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."







Day 2: Mandling Disputes Within the Church

#### Devotional: Embrace Biblical Conflict Resolution

**Paul's words to the Corinthian church challenge us deeply.** Taking disputes before secular courts is not consistent with our calling as God's people. Instead, Scripture instructs us to handle conflicts within the church, seeking reconciliation and restoration.

Legal battles often exacerbate wounds, create division, and harm the testimony of the church. By contrast, the biblical approach encourages personal confrontation with love and gentleness, then involving trusted church leaders if needed. This path demands humility and a desire for peace above being right.

Handling disputes this way honors God's sovereignty and acknowledges that the church is a spiritual family. Though difficult, it invites healing and strengthens bonds. Ask yourself if you are willing to participate in this biblical process, confident that God provides wisdom and grace to navigate tension.







Day 2: Me Handling Disputes Within the Church

## Reflect and Apply

	Why does God want us to resolve disputes within the church rather than in secular courts?
	Have I ever avoided confronting an issue for fear of conflict? What happened?
3.	How can I actively promote gentle restoration within my faith community?







Day 2: Me Handling Disputes Within the Church

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Recall a time when a church conflict was resolved well. What contributed to that outcome?
_	Write about feelings you have towards local involvement in aburch
۷.	Write about feelings you have towards legal involvement in church disputes.
3.	List steps you can take to approach someone privately with love if conflict arises.







Day 2: Mandling Disputes Within the Church

#### Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus**, You are the great peacemaker. Teach me to follow Your example by seeking reconciliation within the church family. Give me courage to address conflicts with love and humility, avoiding unnecessary public disputes or legal battles. Help me to restore relationships gently and keep unity in Your Spirit. May Your wisdom shape every step I take in handling disagreements. *Thank You for Your grace*. Amen.  $\heartsuit$ 















#### Your Verse

Philippians 2:3-4 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 4:6 "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."
- Proverbs 11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."







## Devotional: Humility Unlocks True Wisdom and Peace

**Humility is the foundation for Godly wisdom in any dispute.** When pride dominates, conflict escalates and divides. But when we intentionally humble ourselves, we open the door for peace and understanding.

Paul calls the Philippians to value others above themselves—this counters self-centered judgments that lead to legal fights. Humility allows us to listen, forgive, and seek common ground, reflecting Christ's heart to the world.

Ask God to reveal any pride or selfishness in your heart regarding conflicts. True wisdom begins when we surrender self-interest and choose humility. This mindset guards the unity of the church and invites God's favor and restoration.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	How does pride influence my response to disputes?
2.	In what ways can I choose to value others above myself in conflict situations?
3.	What fears or desires might pride be masking in me right now?







### **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a moment when humility changed the outcome of a dispute you faced.
2.	List practical ways to cultivate humility during disagreements.
3.	Reflect on how Christ's humility inspires your approach to conflict.







#### Prayer for Today

**Gracious Father**, humble my heart before You and others. Remove pride and selfish ambition that hinder peace and wisdom in disputes. Help me to value others as You do and to seek their interests above my own. Fill me with Your Spirit, that I might reflect Christ's humility and bring restoration where there is conflict. Thank You for loving me even when I struggle. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* \$\mathbb{X} \mathbb{Y} \mathbb{L} \mathbb{Y} \mathbb{Y}







## Day 4: God's Justice and Mercy in Conflict









Day 4: God's Justice and Mercy in Conflict

#### Your Verse

Micah 6:8 - "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 85:10 "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other."
- Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."







Day 4: God's Justice and Mercy in Conflict

#### Devotional: Balance Godly Justice with Mercy Always

Justice and mercy must balance in how we handle disputes. God calls His people not only to seek what is right but also to show mercy, healing, and grace. A legalist approach may insist on strict fairness but miss the heart-transforming power of mercy.

Walking humbly with God means surrendering our desire to control outcomes and trusting His ways, even when they differ from human expectations. When we combine justice with mercy, we reflect God's character and invite the Spirit's work in reconciliation.

As you engage with conflicts, ask God for a heart that pursues righteousness while extending mercy—this is the wisdom foundation for restoring fellowship.







Day 4: 🗍 God's Justice and Mercy in Conflict

## Reflect and Apply

Am I leaning more toward strict justice or mercy in recent conflicts?
How can I demonstrate God's mercy without compromising truth?
What does it mean to walk humbly with God in difficult situations?







Day 4: 🗍 God's Justice and Mercy in Conflict

## **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a time when mercy changed a dispute's outcome for the better.
2.	List ways you can show mercy to someone who has wronged you.
3.	Reflect on how God has been both just and merciful in your life.







Day 4: God's Justice and Mercy in Conflict

#### Prayer for Today

**Lord God**, You are the perfect source of justice and mercy. Teach me to walk humbly with You and to extend mercy even when it's difficult. Help me balance truth and grace in every dispute. I ask for wisdom to act justly without harshness and to love mercifully without compromise. May Your peace reign in my heart and in my church family. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 



















Day 5: 🌣 Seeking Restoration and Reconciliation

#### Your Verse

2 Corinthians 5:18 - "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone."
- Matthew 5:23-24 "First be reconciled to your brother or sister."







Day 5: 🎔 Seeking Restoration and Reconciliation

#### Devotional: Embrace Your Role as God's Reconciler

God has entrusted us with a ministry of reconciliation. Just as Christ reconciled us to God, we are called to bridge the gaps caused by conflict within His church.

Reconciliation is more than avoiding quarrels — it is actively pursuing restoration in relationships, forgiveness, and peace. This requires humility, patience, and often vulnerability to address underlying wounds.

By embracing our role as reconcilers, we partner with God's Spirit to heal bruised hearts and unify the body. This is a high calling that brings glory to God and demonstrates His love to a watching world.







Day 5: 🎔 Seeking Restoration and Reconciliation

## Reflect and Apply

1.	What obstacles do I face in seeking reconciliation?
2.	How can forgiveness open doors to restoration?
3.	In what ways does reconciliation bring glory to God and build the church?







Day 5: 🎔 Seeking Restoration and Reconciliation

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Reflect on someone you need to reconcile with; what steps can you take?
2.	Write about the feelings that surface when you think about forgiveness.
3.	List biblical examples of reconciliation and what you learn from them.







Day 5: 🌣 Seeking Restoration and Reconciliation

#### Prayer for Today

Father of Peace, thank You for reconciling me to Yourself and calling me into Your ministry of reconciliation. Give me the courage and love to seek restoration where conflict exists. Help me forgive as I have been forgiven and to be patient as relationships heal. May my life reflect Your grace and bring unity to Your church. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 😂 🗲 📜

















Day 6: S Listening and Wise Counsel

#### Your Verse

Proverbs 12:15 – "The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 15:22 "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."
- Ecclesiastes 4:9 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."







Day 6: (S) Listening and Wise Counsel

#### Devotional: The Power of Listening and Seeking Counsel

Wise conflict resolution never happens in isolation. The Proverbs repeatedly emphasize the value of listening to godly counsel. When disputes arise, seeking advice from mature, Spirit-led church leaders prevents pride and poor decisions that fuel deeper division.

Listening well also means hearing others' perspectives with empathy instead of defensiveness. This openness invites wisdom and reveals common ground.

Don't hesitate to involve trusted mentors or elders when a dispute threatens the church's unity. Jesus modeled humility by submitting even difficult issues to communal discernment, and so should we.







Day 6: O Listening and Wise Counsel

## Reflect and Apply

1.	How easily do I receive advice or correction from others in disputes?
2.	Who in my church can I trust for wise counsel during conflict?
3.	Am I willing to set aside my perspective to hear others fully?







Day 6: O Listening and Wise Counsel

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time wise counsel changed your view or decision.
2.	List trusted advisors available to support you in church conflicts.
3.	Reflect on how active listening can change conflict outcomes.







Day 6: S Listening and Wise Counsel

### **Prayer for Today**

**Spirit of Wisdom**, open my ears and heart to hear Your voice and the counsel of others. Help me lay aside pride and defensiveness so I can receive godly advice. Guide me to wise mentors and bless the counsel I receive. May listening lead me toward peace and unity in the church. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 



















#### Your Verse

Colossians 3:16 – "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 3:17 "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit."
- 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: Commit to Daily Wisdom and Peace

Wisdom is not just for crisis moments—it's a daily lifestyle. As the body of Christ, we are called to teach, admonish, and encourage one another with wisdom that produces peace and godly character.

Paul encourages us to let Christ's message dwell richly within, impacting every decision and interaction, especially in conflict resolution. This ongoing practice requires continual reliance on God, humility, and a servant's heart.

Today, commit to living out the wisdom you've sought this week. Trust God fully, submit your understanding to Him, and pursue peace actively so that your church shines as a beacon of God's love and wisdom in the world.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	How can I make Godly wisdom a daily habit, not just a crisis tool?
	What role do teaching and admonishing with wisdom play in church health?
3.	In what ways can I better submit to God's understanding in conflicts?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write a commitment statement to pursue wisdom daily.
2.	List practical steps to encourage peace in your faith community.
3.	Reflect on how Christ's message shapes your approach to challenges.







#### Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus**, help me to live daily empowered by Your wisdom. May Your Word dwell richly in me, guiding every decision and interaction. Teach me to be peace-loving, merciful, and humble as I serve my church family. Let my life reflect Your love and grace so that others see Your wisdom at work. I trust You fully and submit to Your lead. *In Your powerful name, Amen.* 







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