

# ENCORE Discoveries

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1. What is the key theme in today's verses? RESOLVING \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE BODY
2. In the previous chapter, we saw that believers have the right, ability, and responsibility to judge their lawless members, but only God has the right to judge the unsaved. Now, Paul is telling them that if believers are not to judge the unsaved, why should believers let the unsaved judge them?
3. Have courts of law improved since Paul's day? Does that make any difference in whether Christians should bring lawsuits against fellow believers?
4. Who will judge the world (v. 2)?
5. Who will judge angels (v. 3)?
6. Who is qualified to serve as a judge between believers (v. 4)?
7. In a lawsuit situation between believers, what does God want His children to do, according to these verses (especially verse 7)?
8. It seems that Jesus taught personal non-retaliation (as opposed to retaliation for criminal offenses or military aggression). In the following verses, determine if He was calling for a full surrender of all personal rights:
  - Matthew 5:38-42 –
  - Romans 12:17,19 –
  - Colossians 3:13 –
9. Did you know that *anger* is *our inward alarm system that reveals personal rights which we have either not given to God or have taken back from Him*? How is anger tied into personal conflicts between believers?
10. *The root cause of conflict is our wrong response to God. It is resisting the desire and power God gives to live life in harmony with His principles.* Discuss this.

**Lesson:** God wants us to deal with disagreements within the church body, without airing them before unbelievers. He has given us the wisdom necessary to do so within His Word and through the power of His Holy Spirit.

# Theme: A Pure Body

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## Monday

It's natural to want our own way—especially regarding those things we deem our “rights.” Can you think of some “rights” you would not welcome giving up?

## Tuesday

“When you differ with a person, show them by your looks, by your bearing, and by everything you do or say, that you love them.” Can you think of a Scripture verse that supports this statement?

## Wednesday

I Peter 2:19 and 21 says, “For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully ... For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His steps.” What does this mean to you? How should this change our behavior toward others?

## Thursday

Communication is a key to resolving conflicts. How can you benefit from this truth in your life today?

## Friday

Jesus showed us how to live in the Sermon on the Mount. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice! and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...” (Matthew 5:11-12) Can you think of a time you were falsely accused of something? Have you forgiven that person? Will you now bury it in the depths of the “sea of forgiven faults”?

## Saturday

Look at Romans 12:17-20, then decide if you would agree with this definition. “Coals of fire: *a warmth God will give to those who offend us if we respond to them correctly.*”

Heavenly Father, help me to be a conflict-mender, a peace-maker, a strife-soother. It goes against my human nature and frankly, it's a difficult thing for me to do. I need a large dose of your daily grace and strength to accomplish this task. Thank You. I pray this in Jesus' incomparable Name. Amen.