

# BIBLICAL PROBLEM SOLVING

We all have problems with others from time to time -- some large and some small -- but just how do we go about solving them Biblically and without causing costly upsets and hard feelings.

FIRST -- If it is a large problem involving sums of money and/or property -- and if it is between Believers within the Church -- then there is clear and to-the-point admonitions in the Bible. According to 1 Corinthians 6:1-10 we are told to settle our differences between ourselves and not to take matters to the courts.

SECOND -- There are instructions for personal and often petty disagreements between Believers -- and exactly how to solve them. Matthew 18:15-19 gives step-by-step instructions to solve the matter quietly among ourselves and not cause expanded problems. When matters go unsolved often times they grow out of proportion and can cause more serious rifts, splits and even worse.

Let's look closer to these two items and see what the Word of God has to say --

FIRST -- Christian Brethren are forbidden by this inspired portion of Scripture to go to Secular Courts to settle their matters. It is costly, time consuming and hangs out all the dirty laundry of those who are supposed to be examples to the world -- making a mockery of Christianity and the Church.

The Apostle Paul admonishes us, *"Why do you not rather take wrong? Why do you not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? No, you do wrong and defraud, and that your brethren"* (1 Corinthians 6:7,8). Paul is speaking to fellow Christians -- Brothers in the Faith -- fellow Church members.

This is not easy, we'll admit -- especially if it involves large sums of money. And yet God knows all about it. He knows who is in the right and who is in the wrong. God does not settle all matters at the end of the week or the end of the month -- possibly it will take years -- but God will have His way and everyone involved will realize it when the final outcome is made known.

SECOND -- Often times it is much better to take the wrong and let it pass rather than allow it to fester and grow out of proportion. Too many times these festering wounds cause physical illness and loss of the "Joy of the Lord."

We have personally witnessed all too often where Brothers in Christ, neighbors, even family members go on for years and not even speak to each other because of some incident in the past -- and neither party can really remember exactly what it was that caused the rift.

