

Considering a Lawsuit?

Questions to Ask

There are 20 important questions that Christians should resolve before going to court.

[1] What action by me is likely to bring the most glory to God? [1 Cor. 10:23-33]

[2] What are my true motives for getting involved in litigation? Is it a desire for revenge or security? [Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:19-21; 1 Cor. 13; Phil. 4:19]

[3] Will the action I take compromise my witness before other Christians? Will I be a stumbling block? [Rom. 14:13; 1 Cor. 10:23-33; 1 Tim. 4:12]

[4] Does Scripture expressly forbid the action I plan to take? [For example, Mark 10:11-12]

[5] Will the outcome of my actions affect my obligations to my family and household? [1 Tim. 5:8]

[6] Is there a principle or issue at stake which is broader than my personal interests? [Acts 5:17-32]

[7] Am I most concerned about my name, reputation and feelings? [Matt. 5:38-42]

[8] Is forgiveness appropriate? [Matt. 18:21-35]

[9] Have I met the person face-to-face to discuss my views and listen to his? [Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1]

[10] Am I as eager to forgive and be reconciled as I am to assert my rights? [Matt. 6:12-15]

[11] Does Scripture expressly endorse the action I plan to take? [Acts 25:1-12]

[12] Will the action I take compromise my witness before the other party, their lawyer or my lawyer? What about the Judge and members of the jury? [1 Cor. 6:1-8]

[13] Will the action I take compromise my witness before non-Christians? Will I be a hindrance to their receiving the Gospel? [1 Cor. 6:1-8; 10:22, 32; 2 Cor. 6:3; Phil. 2:14-15; 1 Tim. 4:12]

[14] Will the action I take compromise the testimony of the Church or other Christians? [Rom. 2:17-24; 1 Cor. 6:1-8]

[15] If I had six months left to live, how much of my time would I want to spend in litigation? [Ps. 90:12]

[16] Will my action have potentially damaging consequences on "innocent" third parties? [Matt. 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1-5]

[17] What are my alternatives? [Matt. 5:23-26; 6:8-15; 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 6:1-8]

[18] Is settlement and compromise appropriate? [Matt. 5:25-26]

[19] Have I sought some counselors or mediators to assist in reconciliation? [2 Cor. 5:18-20; Matt. 5:9; 18:16]

[20] In whom have I placed my trust? [Matt. 6:19-34]