

# Is This Really Worth Fighting Over? - Part 2

## Introduction:

1. One of the first things to do when you are involved in a conflict is to **define** the personal and material issues, and discern how they relate to one another. Then you can begin to decide which steps you must take to resolve the problem.
2. It is wise to begin this process by asking yourself, "Is this really worth fighting over?"
3. The Bible **does** teach and indicate that, in many situations, the best way to resolve a conflict is simply to **overlook** the offences of others.
4. Since God does not deal harshly with us **every** time we sin, we should be willing to treat others in a similar fashion.
5. But, many times, even when we should overlook an offense, it is a difficult thing to do.

In this lesson, we will explore three practical principles that will help us to overlook an offense when we decide that an issue is not worth fighting over.

**First, check your own attitude.**

**Second, count the \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. Conflict is often far more \_\_\_\_\_ than we may realize.
2. In 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, the apostle Paul teaches us that there are times when a Christian **could** get embroiled in a conflict, but it simply isn't \_\_\_\_\_ it.

**Third, be willing to lay aside your \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. Even if we are legally and morally justified in exercising a particular right, it may be better not to.

- One aspect of “\_\_\_\_\_” is to show sympathy, kindness, and compassion toward someone who is in need of help, whether or not he deserves it.
  - One way to do this is to refrain from exercising legitimate rights, and thus \_\_\_\_\_ others from their obligation. Matthew 18:21-35
2. The Bible is filled with examples of this kind of mercy.
    - Abraham - Genesis 13:5-12
    - \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 50:19-21
    - King David - 2 Samuel 16:5-12, 19:19-23
    - \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 Thessalonians 3:8-9
    - \_\_\_\_\_ - Matthew 26:53-54
  3. Of course, the Bible teaches there are times when it is appropriate to exercise our rights, to confront others, and to hold them fully accountable for their responsibilities and their wrongs.
  4. So, at times we should be willing to lay aside our rights, but at times it is proper to assert our rights. How can we know when to do which?
  5. 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 provides some guiding principles. From this text, we can derive some questions to ask ourselves whenever there is a question about our rights:
    - Will exercising my rights please and \_\_\_\_\_ God?
    - Will exercising my rights advance God’s work, or will it advance only my interests at the expense of His work?
    - Will exercising my rights \_\_\_\_\_ others?
    - Is exercising my rights essential for my own wellbeing?
  6. As we have seen in this lesson, many disputes can be resolved simply by overlooking minor offenses, and relinquishing our rights for the sake of God’s work.
  7. Therefore, before focusing on your \_\_\_\_\_, check your attitude, count the cost, and ask yourself, “Is this really worth fighting over?”