

Chapter 6 – Dealing With Critical Business Matters

1) Determine if God wants you to defend yourself or to settle out of court.

1. Why does our human nature desire to retaliate?

How can I combat that nature in myself in order to seek reconciliation instead?

2. Do I have a hard time discerning appropriate action to take when unjust action is taken towards me or my business? What are steps I can take to aid in this?

3. Do I have guidelines within my business to ensure that righteousness prevails?

2) Settle disputes or lawsuits outside of court whenever possible.

1. Is it hard for me to approach disputes with a humble and conciliatory spirit? If yes, why is that?

2. What are measures I can take to assure disputes do not go to court?

3. How can I start to view lawsuits as opportunities to show righteousness?

3) Avoid settling a dispute with another believer by going to court.

1. Is an initial thought for me in a dispute with a believer to seek counsel from God and other believers? If not, what are my initial ways of handling the conflict?
2. Before reading, did I ever consider it being destructive to my witness for Christ to go against a fellow believer in court?
3. Do I understand why God commands against going to court with a believer?

4) Remember God's warning when considering legal action against the needy.

1. Is my attitude toward the needy pleasing to the Lord?
2. Under what circumstances should I be willing to suffer a wrong?
3. How can I discern whether I am truly helping a needy person or enabling them to continue in their dishonorable ways?

5) Turn to the Lord for help when facing a financial crisis.

1. Is God whom I turn to first in a financial crisis?
2. Do I trust Him when money runs out?

3. How should I respond to a financial crisis?

6) Seek to make arrangements with your creditor for debt you cannot pay on time.

1. Do I see the value in taking initiative? Why is this approach Godly?

2. When in the situation of needing to approach a creditor, what immediate emotions would surface for me personally? Fear? Shame? Pride?

7) Declare bankruptcy only as a last resort.

1. Do I understand what the Bible teaches about debt relief and the responsibility to pay debts?

2. If I should ever need to consider filing bankruptcy, how can I make the right decision?

8) Seek God's guidance in handling unpaid bills and outstanding debt.

1. Do I tend to have a more trusting heart or skeptical nature towards people who may be taking advantage of me? Why?

2. Do I make business decisions with the best interests of others in mind? Reflect on a time when this occurred. What was the result?

3. How can I be firm, yet kind and merciful?

9) Confront and hold accountable customers who do not pay you.

1. What is my process or policy for dealing with customers that do not pay?

2. How can I arrive at a solution that is both in my best interest and the slow-paying customer's best interest?

10) Be neither cruel nor ruthless when dealing with those who owe you.

1. How do I treat my debtors?

2. What benefits are there in treating people with consistency and kindness? Does that outweigh money?