

# Why Not Rather be Wronged

Philemon 17-19

*So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would me. And if he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—not to mention to you that you owe me even your very self.*

Why would Paul, a poor apostle, volunteer to pay Onesimus's debt to Philemon, who is likely wealthy?

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Overlooking harm suffered by a brother/sister is better than creating division.

## **1 Corinthians 6:7**

As it is, to have legal disputes against one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

What do we have to lose if we fight to win what we "deserve" in a battle against another Christian?

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Assume a position of sympathy, love, and humility towards wrongdoers.

## **1 Peter 3:8–9**

Finally, all of you be like-minded and sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble, not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you may inherit a blessing.

How does returning blessing for evil result in blessing for you?

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Virtue reorients the people against the problem.

## **Proverbs 19:11**

A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.

How is the ability to overlook offense a virtue?

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