



## God Didn't Say, "Stand Up for Your Rights"

10.22.23

The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. 1 Corinthians 6:7-8

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." -Jesus, Matthew 5:38-41

Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 1 Corinthians 6:7

## Whenever I think, "I have a right to..." pause and pray.

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19

## Consider yourself dead to your rights.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Romans 12:1

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." Romans 12:20

## Give room for God to work.

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's anger, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," Romans 12:19

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you." -Jesus, Matthew 5:44

## Copy Jesus.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, Who, being in very nature a God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:6-8

### For your LifeGroup and personal growth...

As we talk about "rights," we'll see that our pursuit of our 'rights' can get us into trouble.

Where do we get our idea of "my rights?" If God gives me 'rights', how could I ever be wrong in standing up for them?

When would it be right to NOT pursue your rights? Try to think about and share some examples.

Read Matthew 5:38-42. What do you see about your 'rights'? How could Jesus even say this?

Read Romans 12:14-21. What is it saying and how do you feel about this? What does it mean to "leave room for the wrath of God?"

How can we even have the ability to do this? (see Romans 12:1-2)

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)