

December 17 Answers

- 1) Paul's letter to Philemon is a good example of how to **resolve** conflict between Christians. First, Paul brought the disputing parties together by addressing them as **family**. Second, Paul was courteous and **tactful**, and his wording allowed both parties to save **face** in an awkward and difficult situation. Third, rather than giving a command, Paul **appealed** to Philemon to do the right thing. Fourth, Paul treated Philemon as an equal **partner** in ministry, even though as an apostle, he was Philemon's spiritual superior. In all, this letter shows us how to exercise spiritual authority and leadership in a **kind** and loving way. Jude's letter shows how concerned he was about the reports of false **teachers**, and he wanted to encourage his fellow believers to "**contend** for the faith" (Jude 1:3). Our responsibility is threefold: (1) to **build** ourselves up in the faith, **pray** in the Spirit, and keep ourselves in God's love (Jude 1:20–21); (2) to identify and **expose** those who have "crept in unnoticed" (Jude 1:4); (3) to **save** those who have been seduced by false doctrine, acting in a spirit of mercy, but also with **fear**, knowing the danger of such teachings (Jude 1:22–23).