

## *One-Liners That Changed My Life!*

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It was early in my career. I was sitting in the office of the general counsel of a company I had been asked to represent for some labor problems. We were discussing litigation when he turned to me and exclaimed,

It was a new term for me, so I listened attentively. He said they had filed a lawsuit and the defendant immediately filed a counter claim. The final result: the company lost their case and the defendant was awarded substantial damages on the counter claim.

Over the years I thought of this scenario many times. The reality is that it is easy to file a lawsuit, but it can be like the brier-patch Peter Rabbit found was very hard to get out of, once he got involved.

God has given us the institution of worldly government to keep peace with outsiders and to judge disputes for those under its control. But simply because we have a forum and the right to file lawsuits doesn't mean it is always wise.

The Bible issues warnings about such controversies and encourages us to resolve disputes before they enter the courtroom. We can not only end up on the wrong end of the verdict, but the fight can take a huge personal toll on all those involved.

As a younger lawyer, I often found myself fighting labor wars. Strikes, litigation, and even violence were common. But it took its toll on me, personally, as well as on my clients.

I decided litigation is to the law what surgery is to the body. Both are sometimes necessary, but they don't give anesthetics for lawsuits!

*From Grandpa With Love*

### **A Note From the Writer**

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin