

YOU BE THE JUDGE

You're the judge of a highly respected appeals court, and you've been given the chance to review a few old cases. You must decide whether each lawsuit is legitimate, and then justify your opinion. Read each case and write your thoughts below.

A boy was banned from an online video game service for repeatedly screaming vulgar insults and racial epithets at other players. When he found that his game console would no longer connect to the internet, he had his parents hire a lawyer and sue the machine's manufacturer for violating his right to free speech. The lawyer argued that because the boy had numerous phobias and could not venture outside, the online ban had effectively cut off all possible means of socialization, leaving him friendless and lonely. The boy sought over \$50,000 in damages.

While using a table saw to cut strips of oak flooring, a man accidentally mutilated two of his fingers. He decided to sue the tool manufacturer for negligence, saying that if the company had installed a "flesh-detecting" device on the saw, his injuries would have been far less severe. Such safety technology exists, but it can be expensive. The man claimed that even though he purchased saw knowing that it had no such safety feature, it was not his fault that his fingers were near the blade. He asked for \$1.5 million in damages.

A man tried to sue himself for violating his own civil rights and religious beliefs. One night he had allowed himself to drink heavily, becoming intoxicated and committing a number of crimes which led to a 23-year prison sentence. This crime against himself was worth \$5 million dollars in emotional damages and psychological distress. Of course, since the man was in prison when he filed the lawsuit, he could not pay anywhere near that amount. He therefore demanded that his state government give him the damages in full.

Skit 1

Gracie walks up to Ashley, who is holding a cell phone.

Gracie: Hey, Ashley! You will not believe what I just heard.

Ashley: Um, can it wait? I'm talking to—

Gracie: No, seriously, you have to hear this. Somebody just saw Megan slip on the cafeteria floor and crash headfirst into Nicholas, that guy she likes in chemistry class. His food tray, like, exploded, and she got spaghetti and green beans all over her clothes—oh, and her hair!

Ashley: I know, Gracie, which is why I'm talking to—

Gracie: And she starting crying there on the floor.

Ashley: Gracie, I'm on the phone with—

Gracie: I didn't see it, but I'm guessing it was hilarious. Anyway, don't tell her I said that. I still want to go to her birthday party. Her parents have, like, a ton of money, so it should be pretty sweet. Hope we don't have to bring gifts or anything, though.

Ashley: Gracie, Megan's on speaker.

Gracie: Oh.

Skit 2

Jim: Hey, Tim!

Tim: Hey, Jim!

Jim: Wanna go dirtbiking?

Tim: Sure, name the time! I'm there.

Jim: Midnight, tonight! It's way more fun in the dark!

Tim: Wow. Where are we going?

Jim: My dad's new construction site. It's like this huge three story office building.

Tim: But aren't they still laying the foundation? It's got all those rebar and metal spikes sticking out of the concrete.

Jim: Yeah, but no pain, no gain!

Tim: What's the gain, exactly?

Jim: The privilege of hanging with my friends, is what!

Tim: The ones that nearly killed the shop teacher when they decided to shoot each other with nail guns?

Jim: Yeah!

Tim: The ones that set fire to that gas station to see if it would blow up?

Jim: Yeah!

Tim: The ones that just got released from juvenile on parole?

Jim: Yeah! Why do you think we're celebrating with a dirtbike tourney? You gotta join us.

Tim: Why on earth would I ever want to do something as dumb as that?

Jim: Because Keisha will be there, and she thinks dirtbiking is awesome.

Tim: Oh, okay. See you there!

Who Started This?

Some things that we do as Christians are cultural beliefs—there is no specific scriptural support for them; we just do them because we’ve always done them. Look at the list below and mark which items you think are tradition and which are biblical.

	Issue	Bible	Culture
1.	We go to church on Sunday, every Sunday.	_____	_____
2.	We pass an offering plate around during every service.	_____	_____
3.	We observe the Lord’s Supper.	_____	_____
4.	The pastor speaks from behind a pulpit.	_____	_____
5.	The pastor preaches the sermon after the music service.	_____	_____
6.	The pastor offers an invitation after every message.	_____	_____
7.	The pastor stands in the foyer or lobby after the service.	_____	_____
8.	Deacons serve the congregation.	_____	_____
9.	The Lord’s Supper is held every three months.	_____	_____
10.	We tithe at least 10% from our paychecks.	_____	_____
11.	Women do not preach in the church.	_____	_____
12.	The pastor is hospitable.	_____	_____

My Thoughts on God

You may not have realized that God oversees your spiritual growth, but it's true (Phil. 1:6).
Finish the statements below.

The time that I felt closest to God was _____

I would love it if God would _____

If God wants me to grow, why does He _____

The time I didn't feel God was watching me was when _____

The greatest thing God has done in my life besides save me is _____
