

# Proverbs 3:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

## Analysis

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Don't contend without cause. The Hebrew 'riyb' (strive/quarrel) describes legal or personal disputes. Picking fights without legitimate reason reveals foolishness and contentious spirit. Wisdom pursues peace and avoids unnecessary conflict. This verse doesn't prohibit necessary confrontation but condemns quarrelsomeness. Peaceable character marks the wise; contentiousness marks fools.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern legal culture involved public disputes at city gates. Proverbs warns against litigiousness - constantly bringing accusations without merit. Jesus later taught similar wisdom: settle matters quickly, seek reconciliation, don't be quarrelsome (Matthew 5:25; 2 Timothy 2:24).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What conflicts in your life might be unnecessary, and how could you pursue peace instead?
2. How can you discern between necessary confrontation and foolish contentiousness?
3. In what ways does social media culture encourage striving without cause?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל	תָּר וּב	עִם	אִךְ	חֵץ	אִם	לֹא	גַּמְלָךְ
H408	<b>Strive</b>	H5973	<b>not with a man</b>	<b>without cause</b>	H518	H3808	<b>if he have done</b>
	H7378		H120	H2600			H1580

וְעָה:  
**thee no harm**  
H7451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 29:22** (Parallel theme): An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

**2 Timothy 2:24** (Parallel theme): And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

**Proverbs 18:6** (Parallel theme): A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

**Proverbs 17:14** (Parallel theme): The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.