Why do some people always feel compelled to have an opinion on everything, or get involved in other people's conflicts? It has been suggested the reason for this varies, ranging from a variety of psychological needs to cognitive shortcuts and social media pressure.

Concerning the constant need to resolve private feuds, some say it stems from a sense of duty inherited in early childhood. On the more negative side, always getting involved often provides a sense of significance and purpose to one's life, which is otherwise lacking.

Other reasons may include the need for moral superiority, a way to avoid self-analysis, and a means for receiving financial or political favours from another.

The Bible too makes a distinction between intervening with proper authority and necessity to arbitrate and being a mere busybody: "If anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness."

The word "busybody" today is used quite lightly, yet the Bible paints a more serious picture, associating it with gossip, division and also the cause of great suffering: "Like somebody who takes a passing dog by the ears is one who meddles in the quarrels of another."

The New Testament provides a similar example of its stinging effect: "If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler."
Some in the community at Thessalonica were engaging in this sin to the point that they had even stopped earning an honest living: "For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work."
Christ's answer to Peter's question about John's calling and destiny could be summed up in the words, "If you are fulfilling your Christian duties as you should, you will neither have time or interest for these things."