

Do Not Quarrel

8-14-22

2 Timothy 2:24–26 (ESV)

²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

These verses are full of insight about our faith and how we can calmly approach the insanity of this world. This is important because as bad as things are, Scriptures warns us of worse times to come.

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) NO/OH

¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

This is not meant to scare us, but to reveal our need for Jesus during these times. Also note the insidious warning of people having the appearance of godliness but denying its power. Scripture says avoid such people! These are people who blindly embraced the evils of this world. Yet there are those caught up in the world system and open to the things of God.

In such cases while they oppose us, God may supernaturally move through us and touch their hearts. In either case, because we know that it is only God who can change hearts, there is no reason to quarrel or get uptight. Therefore, we can calmly share and observe with amazement the supernatural work of God. We need to understand these insights for our own peace of mind.

#1 In this upside-down world God speaks to **the LORD's servant**. Servant means slave which also came to mean "one who gives himself up to the will of another." We are the LORD's servant, one who gives himself up to the will of Jesus.

#2 As the Lord's servant we must **not be quarrelsome** while being kind to everyone! We always stand for the truth, but to be "useful to Jesus" we must not quarrel. We only quarrel, get upset, and too passionate because we "erroneously" think that our own efforts will change someone's mind. We must remember that we are only an avenue for God to work.

#3 Jesus changes minds. However, we still need to **be able to teach**. We have a responsibility to clearly share the truth. The Word is taught at BCC and hopefully each of us feel secure to share with others what we have learned. But importantly we have also discussed in great detail how to approach opponents with wisdom in order to always bring the conversation back to Christ and not to be caught up in the endless side issues.

#4 Knowing everything is sifted through God's fingers, we are able to **patiently enduring evil**. We know God will move in HIS time. Thus, we can tolerate the present evil situation.

We are to correct others, but we must do so without getting heated in our response to evil.

#5 We patiently endure evil **correcting our opponents with gentleness**. We are gentle because we believe that when God's Word is spoken it does not come back void.

Humanly speaking, many would see this is a very restrained and unproductive approach towards our opponents. But in fact, this restrained approach unleashes the supernatural power of God.

#6 God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.

As the Lord's servants, an instrument in God's hands, this is why we behave in this seemingly restrained manner. We realize that we serve as an avenue through which God may move with power to "grant" repentance. **Repentance means "to turn"**. We correct in gentleness so that God may grant people the ability "to turn" and have a change of heart bringing people to the knowledge of the truth. **We have to understand that it is God who brings repentance not us.**

Hopefully you are feeling more secure and calmer already! We are the avenue, but the power comes from God.

Our confidence is that God moves!

#7 They may [come to their senses and escape] from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Only through God “they will come to their senses and escape”. This is all one word in the Greek: literally means “return to soberness.” *They will come to their senses* or literally ‘they will return to soberness’. This implies that they were previously intoxicated by evil influences. **Also, the word for capture means ‘to catch alive’.** This means that the snare of the devil captures people “alive” to do his will. *The devil is portrayed in a double role. He is both intoxicator and captivator of men’s minds.*

Brothers and sisters, we have come to our senses and escaped from the snare of the devil. We are not drunk. We are sober. We are not in the dark. We are in the light. We are alert and watch the supernatural work of God flowing through us.

Therefore, we have no need to quarrel.

Ephesians 5:8 (ESV) NO/OH

At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Not necessary to quarrel!

2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.