

## Choose Your Battles Carefully

It is one thing to become argumentative for righteous purposes, and quite another to entertain the dictates of a quarrelsome, critical spirit. We have to be able to discern the difference, knowing when to become righteously indignant and when to seek more peaceful solutions, and the only way to learn how and when to do that is to study the Lord's Word and stay prayed-up for guidance.

### 2 Timothy 2:14-26 (NIV)

#### Dealing With False Teachers

<sup>14</sup> Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. <sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. <sup>17</sup> Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup> who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

<sup>20</sup> In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. <sup>21</sup> Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

<sup>22</sup> Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. <sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

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A quarrelsome, critical spirit will only lead to a slow spiritual demise for the person within whom that spirit exists. Please ask the Lord to help you know the difference between picking a fight and finishing one His way. You will be amazed at how much more effective is the latter than the former (and for all parties involved, this is the better solution).

The enemy's purpose is only to tear us down, not to build us up. Whenever he manipulates Spiritual circumstances, the only way to win is not to engage in the battle, but to pray, resist the temptation to respond in a worldly manner, and to stay at peace. He really can't stand it when we choose to resist him like that, and he will flee from the Spiritual fight, leaving us with an overwhelming sense of having overcome the problem(s).

I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack