

Bold and Engaged Discipleship

Do Not Be Quarrelsome

2 Timothy 2:22-26

Introduction:

We are continuing in our series, “Bold and Engaged Discipleship.” In this letter from Paul to Timothy we see that bold and engaged discipleship is not passive or fearful, but is powerful, loving and displays self-control. We are motivated and strengthened by the grace God has poured out to us.

As we look at today’s passage, we see that a bold and engaged disciple of Christ is not quarrelsome. This is so fitting for us to hear and follow. It seems like everywhere we look today we see people being polarized, outraged, and quarreling. Our culture is filled with shaming, blaming, and mocking.

How do we as Christians navigate in a culture like this? There will be disagreements and tension with family, co-workers, and friends. As we look at our passage, we will look at three ideas:

- “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome...”
- “...But kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.”
- The necessity of the gospel to address our being quarrelsome

Discuss:

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stood out to you? What challenged you? Were there any questions you want answered?

The Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome

2. What is it like for you to be around a quarrelsome person?
3. Why do you think people (including Christians) fall into the trap of being quarrelsome?

4. How have you seen quarreling damage relationships?

5. How does the pursuit of righteousness, faith, love, and peace help us to avoid quarrels?

Be kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness

6. “Be kind to everyone.” What types of people make it hard for you to be kind to them and why?

7. What does “patiently enduring evil” mean? How might this help us to not be quarrelsome?

8. Correcting with gentleness is not easy. In Matthew 7, Jesus reminds us to examine our motives before we correct. Colossians 4:6 reminds us to season our speech with grace. Why is it so hard to speak gently when we disagree with others?

The necessity of the gospel to address our being quarrelsome

God’s kindness leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Take a moment to reflect on the following reminders of what Christ has done for us:

- Let his gentle correcting make you gentle in correcting others.
- Let his kindness to you make you kind to others.
- Let his teaching shape your teaching in both grace and truth.
- Let his patience make you patient and enduring.

Apply

Spend some time reflecting and praying over the following questions.

- How have you been quarrelsome?
- What grudges are you holding on to?
- What internal narratives do you need the Holy Spirit to evaluate and correct, with the truths of the gospel?