

2 TIMOTHY

# BOLD & ENGAGED DISCIPLESHIP



REDEEMER

2 Timothy 2:22-26:

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

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.

1. “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome”

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Dictionary definition of Quarrelsome:  
Giving to arguing, argumentative,  
combative, contentious, disputatious,  
eristic litigious

Thoughts on this (for Christians):

a. Quarrelsome is rooted to immaturity.

Verse 22: So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.



John Stott: Youthful passions as “self assertion and self indulgence; selfish ambition, headstrong obstinancy, arrogance.”

Thoughts on this (for Christians):

a. Quarrelsome is rooted to immaturity.

Verse 22: So FLEE youthful passions and PURSUE righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

## Thoughts on this (for Christians):

b. If quarreling, you could very well be caught up in foolish, ignorant controversies.

Verse 23: Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

- I am entitled to blow off steam  
because of stress

- No one is perfect, at least I am not like  
(so and so, caricature of person)

- I am allowed to hold a grudge  
because of the way you disrespected  
and wronged me

- (So and so - someone I read, listen to,  
follow) said this, so it must be true

- 1) What happened?
- 2) What am I feeling?
- 3) What story am I telling myself?
- 4) How does the gospel story correct/reframe the story I am telling myself?
- 5) How is God calling me to respond?

## Thoughts on this (for Christians):

c. Quarreling can be rooted in tribalism, and behind it is a longing for a place to belong.

## Thoughts on this (for Christians):

d. Quarreling is triggered by some idol that has taken hold of you.



2. (And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome) but kind to everyone,  
able to teach, patiently enduring evil,  
correcting opponants with gentleness.

a. Kind to everyone

Scott Sauls: “What would it look like for Christians to become not only the best kinds of friends, but the best kinds of enemies, returning insults with kindness and persecution with prayers?”

## b. Patiently enduring evil

Our temptation:

1) Cynical = unengaged

2) Despair = paralyzed

3) Fear/anger = taking control into your hands

c. Able to teach/correcting opponents  
with gentleness

“To not be quarrelsome” does not necessarily mean to never engage

1) Not engage (Matthew 7:6)

2) Wisdom to know when to engage  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

3) When you engage, are you gentle?  
(2 Timothy 2:25)

3. The necessity of the gospel to address our being quarrelsome

“And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome”



Matthew 11:28-30:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Dane Ortland (Gentle and Lowly):  
Jesus is not trigger-happy. Not harsh,  
reactionary, easily exasperated. He is  
the most understanding person in the  
universe. The posture most natural to  
him is not a pointed finger but open  
arms.

Dane Ortland: (When Jesus says take my yoke) He is using a kind of irony, saying that the yoke laid upon him is a non-yoke. For it is a yoke of kindness. Who could resist this? It is like telling a drowning man that he must put on the burden of a life preserver only to hear him should back, sputtering,

“No way! Not me! This is hard enough, drowning here in these stormy waters. The last thing I need is the added burden of a life preserver around my body!”

Dane Ortland: What helium does to a balloon, Jesus' yoke does to his followers. We are buoyed along in life by his endless gentleness and supremely accessible lowliness. He does not simply meet us in our place of need; he lives in our place of need. He never tires of sweeping us into his tender embrace. It is his very heart.