

...And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life." Acts 11:18 (ESV)



B. Christians can be trapped by Satan to do his will.

...and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:26 (ESV)

Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:7 (ESV)

Conclusion

- Our character in a conflict determines our usefulness for God in conflict.
- Jesus is our model to follow in conflict.
- We are to have compassion on Christians trapped by Satan to do his will. We are not to seek revenge.

Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. What kinds of disputes are worthwhile for Christians to engage in? What kinds are not worthwhile? Give examples?
3. Does winning a Christian argument win a soul? If not, what role does Christian apologetics (reasonable arguments to justify our faith) play in evangelism?
4. What do you find most challenging about having Jesus as the model we are to follow in conflict? How does Jesus model for us the way to be maximally effective for God in conflict?
5. Why is it important to have a heart of compassion instead of revenge toward fellow Christians that have become our enemies? What has unknowingly happened in their heart?
6. Have you ever had to correct someone? What were the challenges of doing this well? Give an example of when you have seen this done well.
7. What does the Bible say about the devil and how we can either avoid his traps or escape from his traps? John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8-10, Revelation 12:10-12, Ephesians 6:11-17, 1 John 3:8.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 – Christians In Conflict

March 7, 2021

1. Review — The holiness of my life determines my usefulness for God in life.

A. I want to pursue holiness in my heart to be useful for God.

B. I want to pursue holiness in my relationships to be useful for God.

But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (ESV)

C. I want to pursue holiness in my character to be useful for God

2. I want to avoid pointless controversies to be useful for God. They breed quarrels.

Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 2 Timothy 2:23 (ESV)

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers

of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

1 Timothy 1:3–7 (ESV)

- Mark 12 — The debate of the woman married to seven brothers
 - Do angels have wings?
 - Did Adam and Eve have a belly button?
 - What are the exact details about the way the return of Christ will unfold?
 - Heaven Is For Real by Todd Burpos — Empty speculation about the afterlife
 - The King James only debate
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- All that will matter 100 years from now are people's relationship with Jesus.
 - Do you have someone you are praying for and trying to invite to church to hear about Jesus?

3. Jesus is the model servant of the Lord who shows us how to face conflict.

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 2 Timothy 2:24 (ESV)

He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
Isaiah 42:2 (ESV)

...a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3 (ESV)

I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. Isaiah 50:6 (ESV)

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. Isaiah 53:7 (ESV)

A. The Lord's servant is not to be quarrelsome.

And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose

likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him. Mark 12:14–17 (ESV)

B. The Lord's servant is to be kind to everyone.

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Matthew 14:14 (ESV)

C. The Lord's servant must be able to teach.

D. The Lord's servant must patiently endure evil.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:21–23 (ESV)

E. The Lord's servant is to correct opponents with gentleness.

4. The goal of a Christian in conflict is compassion, not revenge.

A. Pray God grants repentance to conflictual Christians that have drifted.

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 2 Timothy 2:25 (ESV)