

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study for November 5, 2020

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**Topic: "Don't Do What You're Tempted To Do
When Someone Gets Ugly With You"**

Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 2:24

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient."

I. Introduction

A. Have you ever found yourself in a predicament, where you were trying to help someone who resisted you, they spoke disrespectfully to you, and they decided to act rude and ugly towards you?

B. When that happened, did you find your temperature rising and your emotions agitated? **Be honest!** Did you feel tempted to fly into a rage, or even feel like slapping that person across the face?

- HOLD ON NOW -

C. It is natural to feel exasperated when someone you are trying to help does not respond appropriately to the assistance you are offering.

D. Also, what about those times when someone displayed a negative attitude towards you, or they said something mean to you for no apparent reason?

E. In these types of situations, yielding to your emotions and operating strictly out of the flesh will not make the situation any better. In fact, it will only make things worse!

F. So, hold your tongue, stay seated in your chair, and keep your head on straight. I know this can be difficult.

G. Here is another situation to consider. Have you ever encountered a person that you have had to work with or just interact with, and they were exceedingly difficult to get along with?

H. Dealing with these types of people can really be a challenge, but you need to maintain self-control and not allow yourself to get caught up in the flesh.

H. Have you (in the past) ever encountered someone at church who had a critical attitude of others and they got involved in ugly backbiting and gossip? ((I hope it wasn't you!))

II. Exposition [Part I]

A. When Timothy was serving as pastor of the Ephesian Church, he had some insubordinate people in Church leadership positions.

B. Apparently, he had written to Paul about this problem because when Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he addressed the problem, telling Timothy what kind of attitude he needed to maintain when dealing with people who had a bad attitude.

C. Paul said, "**And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.**" (2 Tim. 2:24).

D. The word "**strive**" is the Greek word *machomai*, and it means *to quarrel, dispute, argue, or to get into strife or contention with someone else.*

E. Originally, this Greek word was used to depict *armed combatants who exchanged blows with deadly weapons.*

F. Later, it came to denote men who *fought hand-to-hand - striking, punching, and rolling on the ground as they slugged it out with each other.*

G. However, by the time of the New Testament when Paul used the word *machomai* in this verse, it pictured *people who were at odds with each other bickering, squabbling, and slugging it out - not with swords or fists, but with their words.*

H. So, Paul urges Timothy (and all of us) not to allow ourselves to get dragged into a war of words when we are trying to correct people who have a bad attitude.

III. Exposition [Part II]

A. Next, Paul tells us that we must be "**gentle.**" This is the Greek word *epios*, which means to be *mild-mannered, kind, temperate, calm, or gentle.*

B. We find this word used by Paul in First Thessalonians 2:7, where he reminds the Thessalonians of how he had behaved among them. He writes, "But we were **gentle** among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children."

C. It is important that we see how Paul uses the word *epios* in the context of caring for little children. The use of this word suggests that Paul is now telling Timothy to realize that he is dealing with immature people, whom he must treat like children.

Comment: Parents are to teach and discipline their children without "**flying off the handle**" every time their children are rude or disrespectful. [There is an appropriate time to remember and apply

Proverbs 22:15 which says: **"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."**]

D. Now Timothy must assume an episcopal kind of parental, correcting, teaching role in the way he deals with those adults who are acting inappropriately in his church.

Second Timothy 2:24 could be translated to read:

"And the servant of the Lord must not get caught up in a war of words - wrangling, wrestling, bickering, squabbling, arguing, and verbally slugging it out with his contenders. Instead, he must be calm, steady, temperate, kind, and gentle in the way he responds."

IV. Exposition [Part III]

A. Therefore, when you try to bring correction into someone's life who is under your authority and that person does not respond the way he or she should, **do not** let it cause you to be thrown into a state of exasperation.

DO NOT DESCEND TO THEIR LEVEL AND START ACTING JUST LIKE THEM!

B. This is the time for you to **"put on your parent-teacher hat."** Lovingly deal with the person like child or a young person who needs to be taught how to respond to authority and who needs guidance and correction from someone who loves them.

C. So, what should you do if you get stirred up and start responding out of your flesh, allowing yourself to get entrenched in a war of words?

D. First, thank God that your own level of maturity has been

exposed! Not only does the other person need to grow, but the situation has revealed a flaw in your own character, drawing attention to an area that needs attention, correction, and a higher level of maturity.

E. Additionally, as you pray for the other person to grow, don't forget to include yourself on your prayer list!

Here is a Suggested Prayer to Consider

Lord, please help me to be calm, kind, and gentle when I find it necessary to correct people who are under my care. Forgive me for those times that I have allowed myself to become angry and exasperated and for those times when I have said things I should not have allowed myself to say. Help me to act like a real leader, taking a parental-teacher role. Help me to be more like You in the way I deal with people who are under my authority and care.

I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen!

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the passages below by filling in the blanks. All Scripture passages have been taken from the Kings James Version of the Holy Bible.

"And why beholdest thou the _____ that is in thy _____ eye, but _____ not the _____ that is in thine own eye?" (Matthew 7:3)

"A _____ answer turneth away _____: but grievous words stir up _____." (Proverbs 15:1)

"Let the _____ of my _____, and the _____ of my heart, be _____ in they sight, O lord, my _____, and my _____." (Psalm 19:14)

"And be ye _____ one to another, _____, forgiving one _____, even as God for _____ sake hath _____ you." (Ephesians 4:32)

"And let the _____ of God _____ in your hearts, to the which also ye are _____ in one body; and be ye _____." (Colossians 3:15)

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. After you have considered this lesson, did your mind drift back to a past situation when you had to correct someone who didn't respond in the right way to your correction?
 - a. If so, how did you react to that person?
2. Can you think of a time when someone in authority over you tried to correct you, but you responded in an insubordinate and closed-hearted manner, making it difficult for that person to correct you?
3. As you continue to reflect on this lesson, is there anything in your style of bringing correction that should be changed so that people don't feel intimidated, but rather feel embraced and loved by what you say and how you say it to them?

Jude 3
Pastor Austin