

Biblical Responses to Disagreements

Scripture Reading:
II Thessalonians 3:6-15

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ We need to recognize and remember that while on earth there are, and always will be, Biblical differences within Biblical unity.
 - ▶ There are different levels of achieved maturity among believers
 - ▶ There are different works that God has planned for each believer
 - ▶ Therefore, let's not expect or demand absolute unity among believers here on earth
 - ▶ We are ALL in the process of maturing: Allow for that growth process!!

Improper Responses to Divisive Issues

- **Word battles (arguments)**
 - **I Tim 6:3-4 (ESV) “³ If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions”**
 - **See also I Tim 1:3-7; II Tim 2:14**

Proper Responses to Divisive Issues

Divisive Issue: Ones who make divisions and offences to established doctrine

- **Response:**
 - Turn away, do not engage or give audience
 - Rom 16:17; cf I Pet 3:10-11

Divisive Issue: the Busybodies (II Thessalonians 3:6-14)

- **Response:**
 - Withdraw, draw back, stand back (vs 6)
 - Have no close company with these (vs 14)
 - Desire result (vs 14) that they may be ashamed (literally, “turned in”)

Divisive Issue: foolish questions, genealogies, fights about the law (Titus 3:9)

- **Response:**
 - Avoid (literally, “stand around”). These types of issues are:
 - Unprofitable
 - Empty of Result

Proper Responses to Divisive Issues

Divisive Issue: open immorality (I Cor 5:1-13)

- **Response:**
 - Purge (clean out) the “leavening” person (vs 7)
 - Do not keep close company, such as eating with such a one (vs 11)
 - Remove out from yourselves the malignantly evil person

Divisive Issue: giving up living by grace (Gal 2:11-14)

- **Response:**
 - withstand to the face before all (vs 11) literally, to “stand against”
 - How did Paul withstand Peter? (vs 14)
 - With frank kindness

CONCLUSION

- **How should a spiritual believer respond to divisive issues?**
 - **Turn away**
 - **Withdraw**
 - **Avoid**
 - **Sometime this will involve removing the offending immoral person**
 - **Sometimes this will involve a face-to-face confrontation with truth and kindness (II Tim 2:23-24)**