



Quarrels, Controversies, and the Christian

2 Timothy 2:22-26

August 1, 2021

Pastor Casey Ehlers

Introduction

In our passage today, Paul gives a vision for righteous living as the Lord's servants.

The Text: 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) God's workers are to flee youthful passions... (v. 22a)

- 2) God's workers are to pursue righteousness, faith, and peace within the body of Christ. (v. 22b)

- 3) God's workers (the Lord's servants) must balance avoiding conflict with correcting error. (vv. 23-26)
 - A) Avoiding conflict is a mark of a faithful minister of Christ... (vv. 23-24)
 - a. *A hot-tempered person stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention. (Prov 15:18)*
 - b. *The beginning of strife is like letting out water [breaching a dam], so quit before the quarrel breaks out. (Prov 17:14)*
 - c. *It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling. (Prov. 20:3)*
 - B) Church discipline aims at correcting false teaching (or unrighteous living) for the sake of restoration and repentance. (vv. 25-26)

Response

Christian, flee from quarrels and conflicts and pray for wisdom for the elders/pastors of Hope church who endure evil and correct error for the unity of the body of Christ.

Sunday Text Questions for 2 Timothy 2:22-26 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: Do you tend to have a “fight” or “flight” response to conflict? Why do you think that is?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) In verse 22, Paul exhorts Timothy to flee from “youthful passions.” What do you think some of those passions could be?
- 4) What are the marks of a true Christian according to Paul? (v. 22b)
- 5) Have you ever been caught up in *foolish, ignorant controversies*? Why is it so important for the Christian to avoid them? (v. 23)
- 6) What are some *foolish, ignorant controversies* that the church is caught up in today?
- 7) What is Paul’s twofold solution to *foolish, ignorant controversies*? (vv. 23-25)
- 8) What are some ways Christians can balance avoiding controversies and correcting error?
- 9) How does this text interact with the concept of church discipline? How can God use conflicts and quarrels for his Kingdom purposes? (vv. 25-26)
- 10) Is there anyone that you need to make peace with? Are there any *foolish, ignorant controversies* that you need to repent of?

Further study this week: 1 Corinthians 1 (Mon); 1 Corinthians 2 (Tues); 1 Corinthians 3 (Wed); 1 Corinthians 4 (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 5 (Fri).