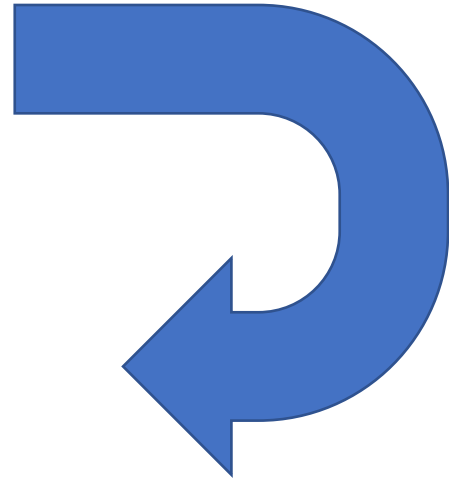


Dealing with difficult people who claim to be Christians and those who turn back



"The Lord knows those who are his,"
2 Timothy 2: 19

2 Timothy 2 :14 -26

Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription.. "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

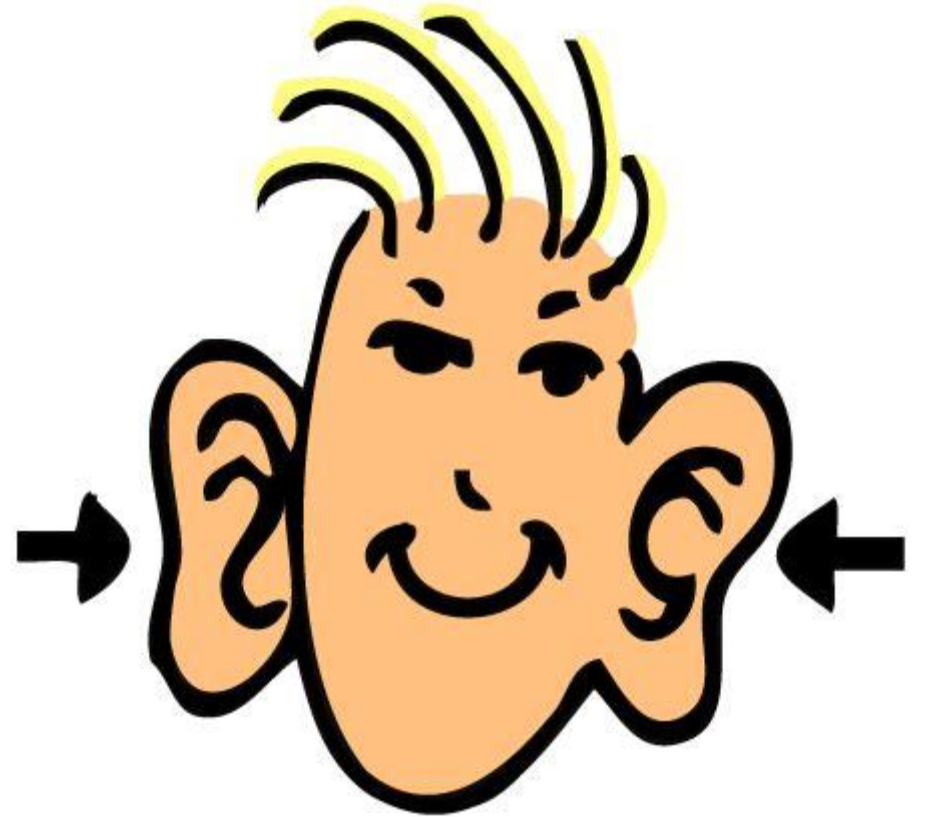
In stereo?

Keep reminding them of these things.

The minister keeps repeating himself!

Why?

The importance of the basics as a life-guide should be in conscious focus and not left on the shelf.



What things?

Keep reminding them of these things.

2 Timothy 2:8 : Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel.

2 Timothy 2:11-13 : For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we deny Him, He will also deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful, He cannot deny Himself.

Warn them before God against quarrelling about words;
it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

Discussions that can turn to quarrels
Destructive emotions rather than reason at work
How do they begin?



The power of a good example

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

You do your best – with the Lord's help!

Whose approval counts?



The guidelines

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a **workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**

How you handle yourself

How you handle God's word (word of truth)

(cf. Proverbs 3:5-6 in the LXX)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will **make your paths straight.**



The dangerous tongue –

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.



Feeding on the world reproduces its own kind

Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth.

Infectious contamination - have you seen gangrene's effects?

2 men are **named** – people to avoid
1 Timothy 1:20 mentions Hymenaeus

They have wandered away – they didn't intend to go off the track, did they?



They say that the resurrection has already taken place,
and they destroy the faith of some.

Their particular dangerous teaching

‘spiritualising’ a physical promise?

This may be a Greek philosophy influence.

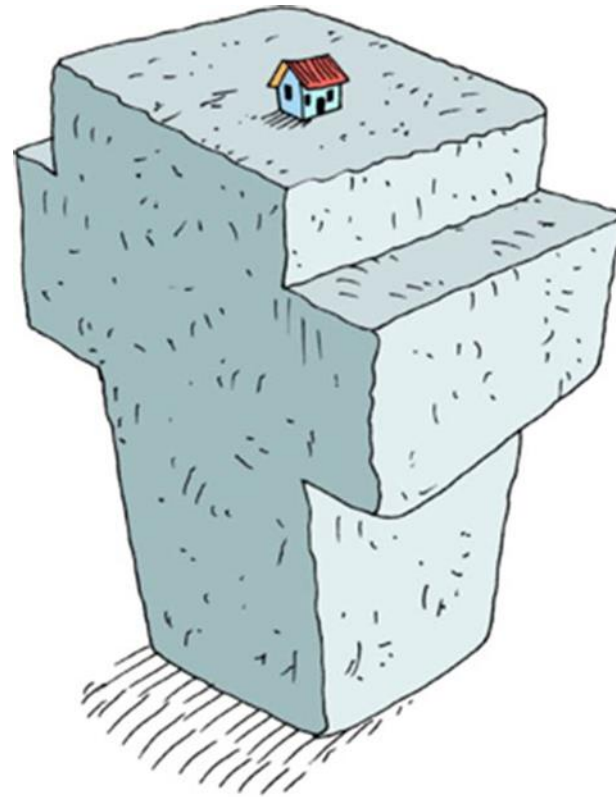
The Result – confusion- some leave the
church- lose their ‘faith’.



People who turn back

Nevertheless, God`s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription.. "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

God`s work is a permanent building with a solid foundation
What God does in us lasts!



The inscription on God's work in people

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription.. "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

The two sides of the same coin:-
God knows who the genuine ones are

Our responsibility- to live out our
confession of faith in purity of life



A domestic illustration

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.

Different pots and plates etc.

Valuable - gold and silver

(notice it's a 'large house')

Ordinary – low value - wood and clay

Different uses: noble – special occasions etc.

Ignoble - rubbish bin etc.



If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Application of illustration

What kind of vessel are you?

Sanctified from rubbish

Useful for service to the Master (house owner
– Lord of our lives)

Available and ready for his call to service.



Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Dangers for young people (Timothy)

Older ones are not exempt!

Good goals – right living, faith – in action

Love - demonstrated

Fellowship with like-minded,
like- hearted believers



Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments,
because you know they produce quarrels.

Back to the danger of arguments over
practices/teachings?

People can soon take sides



**I believe in the infallibility of Scripture
but not the infallibility of interpreters.**

2 Peter 3:16 ignorant and unstable people distort,
as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Standards for a pastor/leader

And **the Lord`s servant** must not quarrel;
instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

Not argumentative
No favourites
Knows the message
Not hitting back
 under negative responses



Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

Try!

How do you gently instruct those who won't listen?

Speak and PRAY for them.

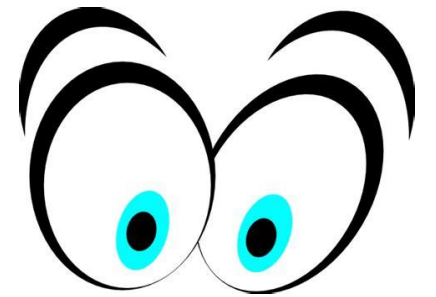
Repentance is a gift of mercy from God



and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

So that they see their error and come to know God's will.

And realise that the devil has been at work in their lives.



There is such a being as the devil

He is dangerous – especially for believers

His intention is to control you, and turn you away from the Lord's will.

The good news is that escape is possible, by the grace of God.

The Parable of the Prodigal Pig

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

2 Peter 2:22

"A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

"The Lord knows those who are his,"

