

# Guidelines for Controversies

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 2:23-26

B. Timothy is facing a world that is about to explode with controversy and a church dealing with controversy.

## II. Have nothing to do with senseless controversies because they breed quarrels.

A. This does not mean to stay away from every controversy.

B. There must be controversies in churches in order that those who are approved might be manifest. (I Corinthians 11:19)

C. There are certain kinds of controversies that one is never to be involved with: stupid ones and senseless ones.

1. "Moronic" controversies should never be allowed to divide the church.

2. Unlearned controversies such as the methods of Baptism that we do not have enough information on to settle should not divide the church either.

## D. Guidelines on dealing with proper controversies.

1. A Christian, especially a leader, must not be quarrelsome.

2. He must be kindly to everyone, approachable.

3. He must be an apt teacher with the facts of Scripture.

4. He must keep his cool.

5. He must be meek, which is selfless.

6. The Christian must always be aware of the divine possibilities.

a. God can grant the person repentance, but sometimes God is accomplishing something aside of the repentance, so sometimes our efforts will not succeed.

b. The person may come to know the truth.

c. Finally, he will escape the snare of the devil.

E. When you conduct yourself in this manner, you can trigger release for a person. When we are contentious, we make this process less likely to occur.

**Application questions:**

1. Why are some controversies good for the church?

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2. What is the proper method for dealing with controversy, and what is the aim?

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3. What happens when a person is not led to repentance despite our kindness and presentation of the facts? Should we consider our efforts a failure? Explain.

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