

Speaking with Those with whom we Disagree

1. When to speak

- A. When you are acting in the role of a parent, instructor or answering an inquiry
- B. When the time is right (Prov.15:23; Isa.50:4; Prov.29:20)
 - 1. When one's opponent is open to it (Prov.23:9; Matt.7:6; Ps.120:6-7)
 - 2. When silence would be dereliction of duty (Acts 4:19-20; Jer.20:9; Amos 3:8)
 - 3. When the Holy Spirit prompts (Mark 13:11; Acts 13:9)

2. How to speak (2 Tim.2:24-26)

- A. Avoid quarreling (Prov.17:14; 20:3)
- B. Gently (Gal.6:1; Prov.15:1)
- C. Patiently (Prepared to listen as well as speak—James 1:19-20)
- D. Humbly (check your own heart for pride as a motive for speaking)
- E. In love (Eph.4:15)

3. What to speak: The Truth (Eph.4:25)

- A. Know your subject (Acts 26:25)
- B. Be sure you know the biblical basis for your convictions (Prov.22:20-21)
- C. Know your opponent's position
- D. Do not feel compelled to say all you know or address every error. Agree where you can. You're your battles. Choose your arguments carefully to avoid being side-tracked. (Prov.17:27; 29:11)

4. Know when to stop. If the seed has been planted, leave it to God to give the increase (1 Cor.3:6)