

# Understanding Proverbs 26:4-5

Does Godly Arguing Actually Exist?

# Does Godly Arguing Actually Exist?

- Titus 3:9 – foolish arguing does exist in the Church
- 2 Tim 2:23-25 – servant of the Lord should not quarrel but be gentle and correct with humility
- Is humble correction a type of arguing?



# Cancel Culture, Agree to Disagree, Censored Speech



Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.



SPQ:

What is godly “*arguing?*” with a fool according to their folly?



# Agenda

- Biblical definition of a fool
- Facts, logic, beliefs, opinions, feelings
- To answer or not to answer?
- Does godly arguing exist?

# Biblical Definition of a Fool

**Psa 14:1, 53:1** – There is no God; Does no good

**Ecc 10:2 (NLT)** – Chooses the wrong road

**Isa 32:6 (NIV)** – Bent on evil, spread Godly error, neglect the hungry

**Prov 14:8-9** – Mocks sin, deceitful

**Prov 26:11** – Repeats the same mistakes

**Prov 18:7,14:3** – Trapped, ruin and beaten by what they say

**Prov 1:22** – Hate knowledge

**Prov 18:2** – Discontent with understanding; Delight expressing their heart

**Prov 10:23 (NIV)** – Finds pleasure in wicked schemes

**Prov 15:5,20** – Despises parental instruction

**Prov 12:16 (NLT)** – Quick tempered vs. long-suffering

# Biblical Definition of a Fool

Denies God's existence

Makes wrong life choices

Determined to go against God

Justifies themselves by  
misrepresenting God

Neglects responsibility for  
others

Laughs at sin's consequences

Can't be trusted

Repeats the same mistakes

Can't control their mouth

Hates knowledge and/or truth

Discontent with understanding

Their feelings are the most  
important

Want arrangements to benefit  
them even though it may hurt  
others

Despises parents

Can't control their emotions

# Biblical Definition of a Fool

The Bible definitions of a fool are not all inclusive

If you are guilty of one definition, then you were foolish / a fool

I have been a fool and done foolish things

**Prov 8:5, Prov 21:11** You can choose to not be a fool

Side Note: **Matt 5:22** You Fool!  
Is not the same; Tied to “Raca”  
Means passing eternal judgement that a person is w/o morals and too stupid to repent





# Facts, Logic , Beliefs, Opinions, Feelings

- Fact: Something that has actual existence or is provable
- Logic: Something that forces a decision apart from or in opposition to reason
- Belief: A state or habit of mind in which trust or confidence is placed in some person or thing
- Opinion: A view, judgment, appraisal formed in the mind; A formal expression of judgment or advice by an expert
- Feeling: An emotional state or reaction, could be an unreasoned opinion or belief

# Facts, Logic , Beliefs, Opinions, Feelings

- Facts, Logic, beliefs, opinions, feelings contain perceived or actual truth to the beholder
- We are to prioritize godly truth over facts, logic, beliefs, opinions, feelings
- **John 8:31-32** You will know truth if you faithful to the Word of God
- You must answer or not answer a fool with godly truth
- **1 John 4:6** You must discern between the spirit of truth and error

# Facts, Logic , Beliefs, Opinions, Feelings

- A penny dropped from the top of the Empire State Building will kill you? No
- You can see The Great Wall of China from space. No
- Mary Magdalene was A) the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume, and B) a former prostitute. Not Known
- The devil is in the details No
  - God is in the details

# Facts, Logic , Beliefs, Opinions, Feelings

- How to verify fact is truth (godly truth)
  - Trusted sources (Bible, UCG, etc.)
  - From two or more different sources
    - ❖ Fact Check
    - ❖ Media Matters
    - ❖ NewsBusters
    - ❖ Open Secrets
    - ❖ Politifact
    - ❖ ProPublica
    - ❖ Snopes

# Facts, Logic , Beliefs, Opinions, Feelings

## Why facts don't change beliefs

- Being accepted by a social group is more important than truth
- People's primary reasoning is to justify beliefs they already have and make arguments to convince others – *“Enigma of Reason”*
- We seek out information that confirms what we already believe not truth
- Politics are bad for reasoning because the priority is cohesion in the group instead of truth-seeking

# To Answer or Not to Answer?

- What is the value of my answer from God's perspective?
  - Unprofitable and/or useless
  - Gentle correction
  - Help or hurt
  - Matt 7:6 (NKJV) Choose wisely
- What is the cost of my answer from God's perspective?
  - Prov 29:9 – No peace
  - Will I win the argument and destroy the relationship?
  - Do I have to be right all the time? 😊

# To Answer or Not to Answer?

- What is the person's demeanor?
  - Are they a "Know-it-all" and can't be corrected?
  - Are they a "Subject Matter Expert" on the topic?
  - Are they easily offended?
  - Are you interjecting your knowledge where it is wanted?
  - Are they teachable?
  - Is there humility on both sides?
  - Prov 26:12 (NKJV) – Wise in your own eyes

# To Answer or Not to Answer?

- Subjective words vs. objective words
  - Subjective: Worst, always, my whole life, the Bible says, etc.
  - Objective: Accurate statistics; Referencing the scripture
  - Subjective: Absolute definitive statements w/o sources
  - Objective: Statements with caveats
- Look for bias (belief)
  - “Media Bias”: It is hard to find a balanced news source
  - “Selective Bias”: Picking parts of information to support a position
  - Sensationalism: Making something extraordinary by exaggerating facts or using subjective language



# To Answer or Not to Answer?

- Look for cognitive dissonance (inconsistencies in thinking)
  - I want to live a long time and be healthy, but I smoke
  - I want to lose weight, but I love to eat
  - I want to have a long happy marriage, but I don't follow God's instruction
  - I want God to bless me, but I don't want to apologize to that person  
**Matt 5:23-24**
  - I want God to hear my prayers, but I am not nice to my spouse      1 Peter 3:7
  - Do as I say not as I do

# To Answer or Not to Answer?

- Answer techniques that keep respect (gentle) in a discussion
  - Listen more than you talk
  - Be humble, talk softly and give people time to process what you say; Prov 15:1 – “A soft answer turns away wrath”
  - At times, summarize the other person's perspective and ask them if you understand them correctly
  - Don't mindread the person's intent; “Don't assume”
  - Stay on topic and give relevant answers; If the direction keeps changing it is foolish to continue

# To Answer or Not to Answer?

- Answer techniques that keep respect (gentle) in a discussion
  - Keep your answers more positive than negative
  - Avoid character / personal negative statements / attacks
  - Don't generalize; Be objective and not subjective
  - Find common ground
  - Sometimes an answer can be a not answer



# Does Godly Arguing Actually Exist?

**Phil 2:14 (NKJV)** – Do all things w/o complaining and disputing

**Phil 2:14 (NIV)** – Do all things w/o grumbling or arguing

**1 Peter 3:15 (KJV)** – ...Be ready always to give an answer..

**2 Cor 10:4-5 (NKJV)** ... Casting down arguments...

Is this a foolish question?

Should I answer or not answer?

2 Tim 2:23-25 (CEV)

