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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **Should people argue over scripture?**

Some people have a rule by which they live. They have decided there are two things which they will never discuss with anyone: religion and politics; and as hard as you may try they refuse to be lead into a discussion of either topic.

The general belief is that it is wrong and sinful to argue over the Bible. It is their feeling that God frowns upon anyone who would discuss and argue over what the Bible says. Is this true? Is it always sinful and wrong to argue about what the Bible says?

## **IT IS NOT ALWAYS WRONG TO ARGUE**

Let us begin by observing this: **If it is always wrong to argue over the Bible, then Jesus Himself sinned**, because He argued with others about what the Bible says and the very first person He argued with was the Devil:

### **Matthew 4:4-7**

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

Notice here that the Devil quoted Scripture and from that Scripture He drew a false conclusion. Jesus argued with the Devil about the passage. Jesus pointed out the passage did not mean what the Devil was trying to make it say. Jesus, then, was arguing over the Bible.

Again, if it is always wrong to argue over the Bible, then the apostles of Christ were wrong, because they continuously argued with people about what the Scriptures said:

**Acts 9:29**

29 And [Paul] spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and **disputed** against the Hellenists, ...

**Acts 17:17 (KJV)**

17 Therefore **disputed** [Paul] in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

From these passages and examples we may certainly declare that it is not always wrong to argue over the Scriptures.

**SOMETIMES IT IS WRONG TO ARGUE**

But sometimes it is wrong to argue over the Bible. The Bible lists at least three times when it is wrong to argue over the Scriptures.

- 1) **It is wrong to argue over the Bible when the argument involves foolish and unlearned questions.**

**2 Timothy 2:23**

23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

Jesus and His apostles argued with men over matters that pertained to salvation. They did not involve themselves in arguments over trivial matters that were worthless.

2) **It is wrong to argue continuously with men who resist the truth.**

**Matthew 7:6**

6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

There are so many people in the world who have never heard the truth that it becomes a waste of time to continually argue with someone who resists the truth. When someone proves themselves unworthy of the truth it is unprofitable to waste precious time on them any longer. It is time, rather, to go on and seek someone willing to listen.

3) **It is wrong to argue the Bible with a heretic.**

As old fashioned as it may sound, the Bible does speak of heretics - men that do not accept the truth of the scriptures:

**Titus 3:10-11**

10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,  
11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

These men have had plenty of opportunities to hear the truth and to obey the Lord. It's not as though they never had a chance.

**AN EXCUSE FOR NOT HAVING TRUTH**

Before closing, let me say this: Some do not discuss the Scriptures because they are not doing what the Scriptures say and they know they are not living right. Others are in churches that are not worshipping God like the Bible says and they know it. When you try to talk to these people they use the excuse, "**I don't believe in arguing over the Bible.**" In reality, their problem is they are wrong, they know they cannot defend their sinful practices and they are using this for an excuse for not listening to the truth.

Let us not use this as an excuse. Let us study the Bible with one another in hopes of helping one another see the will of God clearer. Why should we be afraid of studying the Word of God with those who disagree with us? If someone can show us from the Bible where we are doing something wrong, that person would surely be our friend. It would certainly better to discover our errors during this life than to wait until the Judgment Day and discover our errors then when it is too late to change!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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