

“Winning the Argument”

1. Every day you encounter people who have (and express) views and opinions that are different than yours—views that range from the trivial to the profound. What factors do you consider in deciding whether to argue with them for your view?

What are some common mistakes we make when arguing—tactics that undermine relationships rather than promote a careful search for truth?

What unintended messages do we sometimes send by arguing—messages that are unspoken but implied (or perceived by others) in the very act of arguing?

2. Read 2 Timothy 2:14–15, 23–26. What dangers does the apostle Paul want Timothy to avoid? What alternative action does he advocate? What is the difference between *quarrels* and *gentle instruction*?

Paul instructs Timothy to avoid “foolish and stupid” arguments. Do you think this implies that some arguments are *not* foolish and stupid? If so, how do you distinguish between the two?

3. How much of the Truth must someone understand before being brought to faith in Christ? Do you think it is possible for someone to be accepted into Christ even though they are mistaken (i.e., in error) about some doctrinal matters? What do your answers imply concerning how to lead someone to faith?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?