

The Lord's bond-servant needs to be like the Lord**2 Tim 2:24-26**

The Lord Jesus embodied the truths of this passage.

Most of the places in all the NT letters where it either shows how others promote their views, or there are contrasts with how we should share ours as followers & ambassadors of Christ:

Acts 20:27-32

1 Cor 2:1-5; 3:10-23; 4:6-7

Gal 1:6-10; 3:1; 4:8-11, **16-20**; 5:7-12; 6:11-12**Phil 1:15-18**; **2:14-16**; 3:15-161 The 1:3-7; **2:1-8**, 10-12; 5:21-22**1 Tim 1:5-7, 19-20; 4:1-2, 6-7, 16; 6:3-5, 20-21**Tit 1:10-16; **2:1, 7-8, 15**; 3:1-4, **8-11****Jam 3:13-18****2 Pet 2:1-3**, 9-19; 3:14-18

2 Jn 1:6-11

Jude 1:3-4, 10-13, **16-23****Rom 12:2; 16:17-18****2 Cor 4:1-2**; 10:3-5, 12-13; **11:2-6, 11-15**; 13:10

Eph 4:11-14

Col 2:1-8, 16-19

2 The 2:15; 3:6

2 Tim 1:13-14; 2:2, 14-26; 3:1-5, 12-17; 4:3-4

Heb 2:1; 5:11-6:1 perhaps Philemon 1 :8-9

1 Pet 3:15-17

1 Jn 5:18-21

3 Jn 1:3-4

Rev 1:3; 22:18-19

-to be clear, this is not just being "nice" ...there is a very determined and purposeful manner about us, that could even be quite firm because of what is at stake (cf **2:14; 4:2; Tit 1:10-14; 2:15**)

Even if there are times when we need to be very firm and 'confronting' (like was true in the ministry of Christ and apostles and prophets), the condition of our heart and character is key; and it must be evident that we are motivated by a love and care for the people and not only for the truth.

Some practical and strategic points from this passage in 2 Tim 2 (starting with the goal):

v25b-26:

- ➔ recognize that it is a spiritual issue at the core, and the priority of our mission is to be fit and available for the Master's use so that they can enter into the freedom that comes from repentance and being reconciled to God, living in the truth

vv24-25a

- ➔ a continual commitment and discipline to being Christlike and responding the way He would and not how the world would

vv20-23

- ➔ there is deliberate preparation and alertness needed, not just in words to say, but in our own character and that of the people we lock arms with in life and service

Practise on each other in the church and in our homes, and prayerfully commit to it in all our dealings in this world. **The result? Christ will be attractive & will win people to eternal life with Him, starting now and on into His righteousness, loving presence.**

May this be our motive in all our dealings with each other and with the world.

(see other side for pertinent quotation by Paul Tripp)

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2 Tim 2:24-26

Quotation from Paul Tripp's "Wednesday Word" from Oct 5, 2022: (**bolding added**)

"...But there's a problem with tools. The same hammer used to build a house can also smash a window in a robbery. The same screwdriver that assembles gorgeous furniture can stab someone in a fit of anger. Such is the case with social media.

I am again and again shocked at the darkness and abuse that now lives on social media. So much of that results from people emboldened by the protective cover of a remote screen and keyboard. The prevalence of this toxic digital culture should grieve and concern us.

It would be sad enough if only the unbelieving world was defined by this behavior, fueling our motivation for gospel evangelism. It should be expected, as followers of Christ, when the world hates us: "If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18).

But what should make us grieve the most is that these nasty interactions have infected and stained the church. *When Jesus was in His final moment of tender instruction of His disciples, words meant to prepare them for a life of faith after His ascension, He said this: "By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).*

Let these words sink in. Jesus is saying that the mark of a disciple, the core indication that you have been visited, rescued, and transformed by grace, is love. In today's world of digital communication and social media, many of us are reacting in a way that falls way below this standard.

By the power of God's amazing grace, we can do better."