

If You Love Them Then You Must Debate Them
November 2019 Issue “Challenging Not Adversarial”
IYLTYYMDT – “Positive Redirection”

Have a Challenging Message Not An Adversarial Message

*Emphasizing circular motion, a redirection of force. Let the Holy Spirit speak.

The last two issues I wrote about and described a **venue driven environment**. Earlier this year I talked about neutral motives. To have an effective process of communications it will be important to make sure that the environment is safe and free with the **liberty that only Christ can bring**.

This issue I will discuss how to avoid a negative and adversarial encounter. First we have to understand that all dialogue comes from thought in motion. In our debates and discussions with others we have a choice to either weaponize it or redirect the conversation for peace and love.

It all depends on two things:

1. Have we come from a neutral motive and are we walking in the liberty of Christ? Will the words I use convey a liberty or bondage?

Galatians 5 “*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*”

2. Do I want the outcome to strengthen the relationship by proper communications. Have I humbly portrayed the hope in Christ or the inadequacies of man.

Many times I have wondered if I am effective with the message of Christ because I used a passionate approach but the person seems to block out the communications. I realize I have a tendency to overstate the issues I passionately believe in. Because we all come from a place of immense debt for the salvation of our sins we can trust that Jesus is the one changing hearts and drawing people to Him.

Ephesians 4:29 “*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to use in edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*”

Romans 12:10 “*Have kindly affection one for another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another*”

We have many choices during the day to honor those around us. Take time to evaluate your motivation for the encounters God leads you in. The next time you experience a hardness to the Gospel Message redirect the topics to like minded issues and try using the challenge approach in stead of an adversarial negativity.