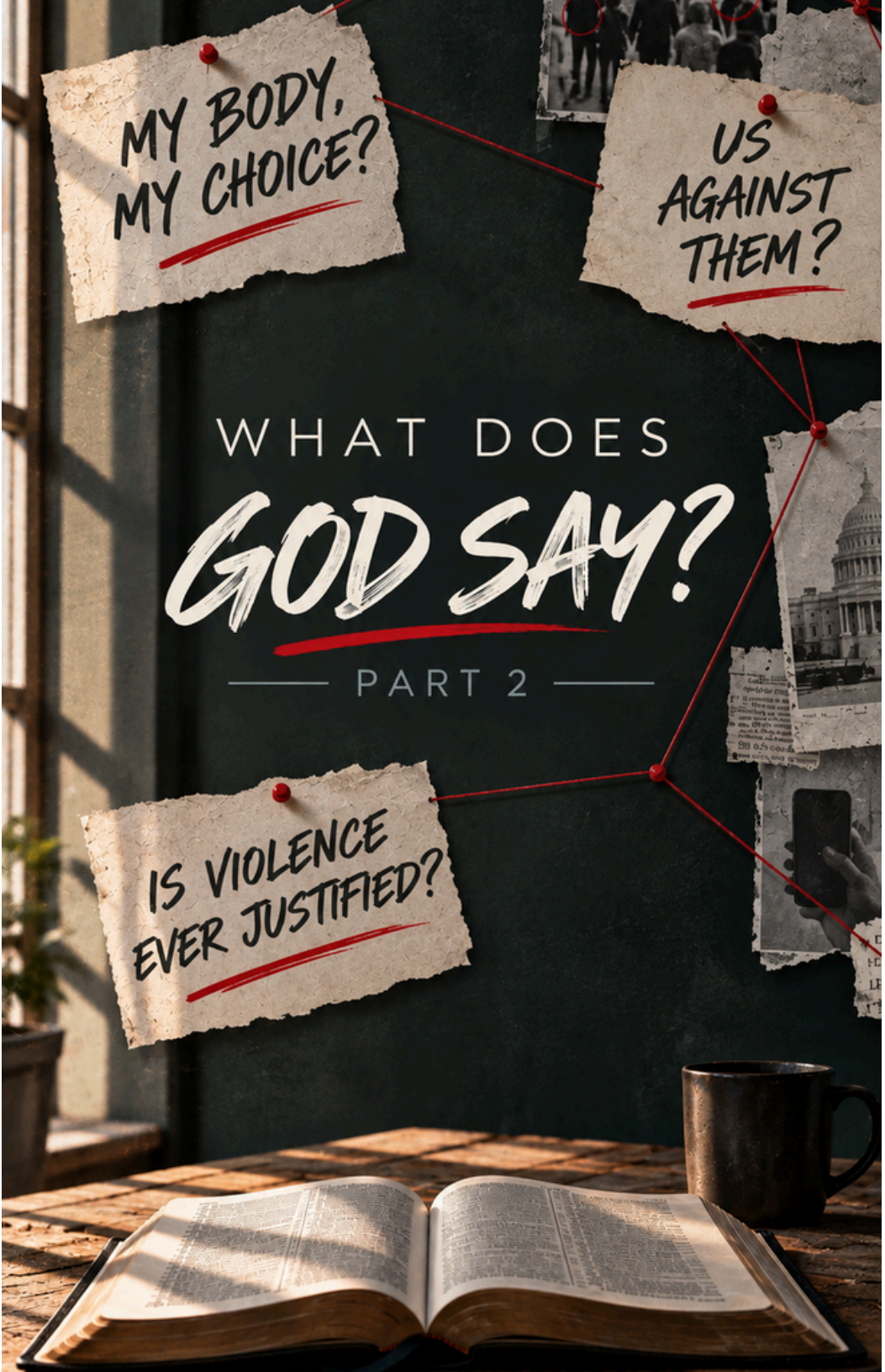

MY BODY, MY CHOICE?
US AGAINST THEM?
WHAT DOES
GOD SAY?
PART 2
IS VIOLENCE EVER JUSTIFIED?

Know

2 Timothy 2

- **Who was Timothy?** Timothy was a younger ministry leader whom Paul mentored and entrusted with responsibilities in the early Church. Paul wrote this letter while imprisoned, encouraging Timothy to remain faithful despite opposition.
- **The early Church faced division.** Christians were encountering persecution, disagreements, and false teachers. Timothy had to help believers distinguish between sound biblical teaching and ideas that distorted the Gospel.
- **Hymenaeus and Philetus**: These false teachers claimed that an event associated with Christ's return and the end times had already occurred, undermining the faith of some Christians.

1. **Seek Biblical Truth**: Consult Scripture when forming positions on today's cultural, social, and political issues.
2. **Defend Truth with Gentleness**: Be thoughtful and tactful when explaining or defending biblically supported positions.
3. **Keep the Gospel Central**: Our ultimate goal isn't winning arguments, but leading people to Christ.

Read

2 Timothy 2:14-19 and 23-26

14 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them
before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value,
and only ruins those who listen. 15 Do your best to present
yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need
to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 16
Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will
become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread
like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18
who have departed from the truth. They say that the
resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith
of some. 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm,
sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are
his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must
turn away from wickedness."

22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith,
love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a
pure heart. 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid
arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the
Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to
everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be
gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them
repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that
they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the
devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Ask

1. We live in a society that frequently divides people into opposing groups based on politics, religion, culture, and personal beliefs. As Christians, we are called to evaluate the world through Scripture rather than allowing the world to determine our convictions.

- How should Christians determine which side of a controversial issue to support?
- How can you determine whether your position comes from Scripture or whether you're using Scripture to defend something you already believe?
- What should we do when neither side of an argument fully aligns with biblical teaching?
- How can we recognize when our loyalty to a political party, movement, or social group has become more important than our loyalty to Christ?

2. Everyone encounters people whose beliefs, identities, lifestyles, or values differ from their own. For Christians, this might include Muslims, LGBTQ individuals, sexually promiscuous people, atheists, or those with opposing political beliefs. In 1 Corinthians 9:19–23, Paul describes adapting his approach to reach different people without abandoning his commitment to Christ.

- Which groups of people do Christians sometimes struggle to understand, relate to, or welcome, and why?
- How should you approach building a friendship with someone whose religious beliefs, sexuality, or lifestyle differs significantly from your biblical convictions?
- What practical steps could you take to demonstrate Christ's love and share the Gospel with someone from one of these groups without compromising your faith?

3. In 2 Timothy 2:23–26, Paul instructs Timothy to avoid foolish arguments and correct opponents with gentleness and patience. Being correct about an issue doesn't automatically mean we're handling the disagreement correctly.

- Can you be completely right about an issue but still be wrong in how you defend it? How?
- When does defending biblical truth become an argument motivated by pride or a desire to win?
- How should we respond when someone refuses to accept a biblical position even after we've explained it?

4. Christians sometimes become so focused on identifying sin or correcting false beliefs that they forget the person standing in front of them. Titus 3:3–5 reminds us that we also needed God's mercy, while 2 Timothy 2:24–26 emphasizes patience and gentleness toward those who oppose the truth.

- If an LGBTQ classmate, a Muslim neighbor, or a sexually active friend begins asking questions about Christianity, how would you decide what to address first: their specific beliefs or behavior, or their understanding of Jesus and the Gospel?
- How should your approach differ when someone is genuinely curious about Christianity versus when someone is deliberately trying to provoke an argument?
- What does it look like to patiently disciple someone who is interested in following Jesus but continues to struggle with beliefs or behaviors you understand Scripture to prohibit?

Notes

Gospel Sharing Tool

1. Ask Permission

"Can I ask you a spiritual question?"

2. Ask Two Questions

- "What do you think happens after we die?"
- "If God asked, 'Why should I let you into heaven?' what would you say?"

3. Listen

Listen carefully and repeat back what you heard to make sure you understand.

4. Share the Gospel

Use this simple outline:

- God – God loves us and created us to know Him.
- Us – We have all sinned and are separated from God.
- Jesus – Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sins.
- Response – We must repent and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

5. Invite

"Where are you at with Jesus?"

6. Follow Up

"Would you like to read the Bible or talk more about this sometime?"

7. Pray

"Can I pray for you or pray with you?”



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sundays
9 AM, *Netcong*
10 AM, *Randolph*
11:15 AM, *Netcong*

Wednesdays
7 PM, *Netcong*

@the_gardenym
grace4families.com/youth