

#1: Argue About Stupid Things

- 2 Timothy 2:23 – Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.
 - "quarrels" = the Greek word used here is where we get the word "machete" from

2: Assume Politics is the Answer

- Think About This:
 - Some estimates say 40% of the Roman empire were slaves... yet Jesus never led a protest to end it
 - Abortion and infanticide were rampant in the Greek world... yet Paul never wrote to Caesar to pass laws against it
 - The Roman Empire had shifted from a semi-democratic republic to a despotic tyranny... yet no NT leader seems concerned about the loss of freedoms
 - The Roman Empire had rampant illegal immigration... but none of the NT letters address this
 - Nero was an evil, wicked man that many say was the Beast of Revelation... yet Paul told Believers to submit to him (Rom 13) and pray for him (1 Tim 2) and he jumped at the opportunity to share the Gospel with him (I appeal to Caesar - Acts 25:11)
- King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)
 - Vs. 34-35 – 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.
 - Vs. 44 – In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

3: Judge Everyone Except Yourself

- Survey: 2022 Ipsos Polling Company
 - 3,119 Americans ages 18 and older
 - Evangelical Christians said about themselves:
 - 72% said Christians were loving
 - 71% said they were compassionate
 - 71% said giving
 - 62% said Christians were respectful
 - 60% said Christians were honest
 - Those with no religious affiliation said Christians were:
 - 55% said Christians were hypocritical
 - 54% said they were judgmental
 - 50% said they were self-righteous
 - Disconnect
 - So Christians described themselves generally as loving, compassionate, giving, respectful, and honest... but non-Christians said they were hypocritical, judgmental, and self-righteous
 - While 71% of Evangelicals said Christians were compassionate... only 15% from other religions thought so... and just 12% of the non-religious
 - 60% of Evangelicals considered themselves honest... while only 11% of the other religions and 7% of the non-religious thought so

- 55% of Americans with no religious affiliation said they were hypocritical... but only 20% of Evangelicals felt the same
- Matthew 7:1-5 – 1 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.
- 1 Peter 4:7-8 – 7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
- John 3:17 – For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
 - “condemn” = same word as “judge” in Greek

4: Preach the Gospel Without Living It

- Quote: St. Francis of Assisi (mistaken) – “Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words.”
- 1 Peter 3:1-2 – 1 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.
- Matthew 5:16 – ...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Matthew 23:3 – So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.