



**I asked my husband to pick
up 6 potatoes...**

Husbands can be frustrating . . . being “right” but so wrong at the same time.

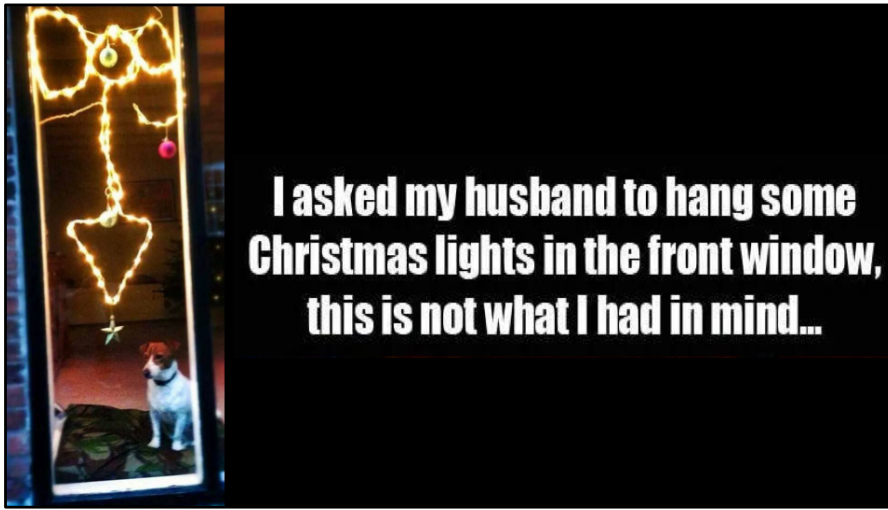
TR: Their sense of humor can be a bit frustrating . . .

Last night I asked my husband to put some spaghetti on the stove so I could start dinner when I got home. I came home to this...



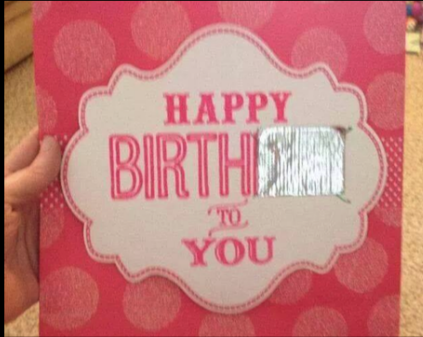
. . . especially after a long day.

TR: Their creativity can leave something to be desired . . .



. . . and can be embarrassing in front of the neighbors.
TR: Their ingenuity can be impressive, even if it is . . .

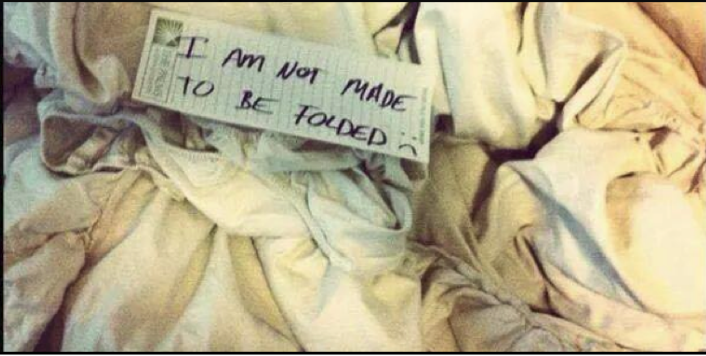
I asked my husband to pick up a Baby Shower card on his way home from work...



. . . a bit tacky.

TR: And sometimes, we seem to just give up too quickly . . .

It was my husband's turn to fold the laundry. He left this note...



. . . but folded sheets really aren't meant to be folded, are they?

TR: Most of us can laugh, but there are marriages when laughter, that isn't cruel mockery, seems to be "seldomly heard."



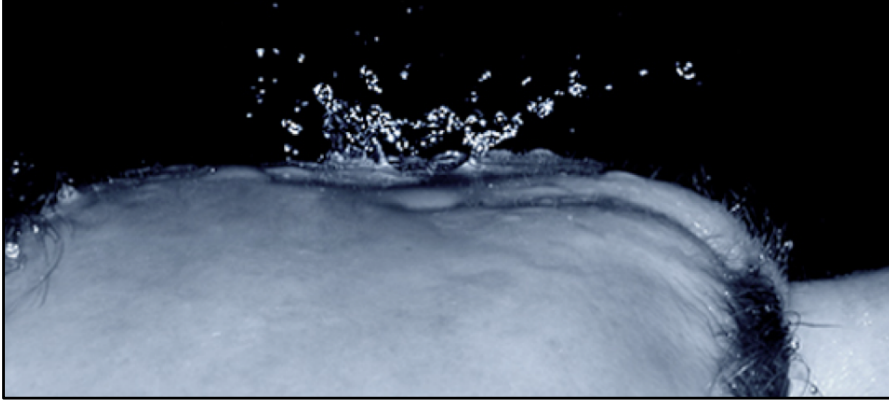
SOWING AND REAPING

How can we wisely sow into our relationships, especially our marriages, in a way that reaps joy and peace and good laughter?

TR: To put it upside down and backwards, what do we need to do to . . .

**How to wear down your man . . . and
get the husband you never wanted.**

7



. . . READ SLIDE

-- What so-called Chinese Water Torture can we inflict on our husbands so that they'll do what we say?

-- Cf. Myth Busters and how the restrained woman couldn't take it any more after a few hours.

TR: Of course, we are really trying to learn how NOT to do this, but . . .



How to wear down your man . . . and get the husband you never wanted.

. . . what would be some steps we could take to wear our man down?

TR: First . . .



How to wear down your man . . . and get the husband you never wanted.

1. Remember how powerful an influence you are, and how much impact your relentless and persistent words have.

. . . we need to READ SLIDE

-- The water torture only works if the dripping is relentless and persistent . . . it just keeps coming, again and again.

-- Like a dog with a bone, we just won't let go of it.

-- I catch myself slipping into being quarrelsome when I keep repeating the same argument or reason for my desired choice.

-- "It is so obviously right that they must not have heard it, so I should repeat it again, with greater firmness."

TR: Isn't the muscular influence of relentless wearing down pictured for us in the demise of the Old Testament judge named Samson?

Judges 16:15-16

And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies." ¹⁶ **And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death.**

ESV

Given great physical strength by God to help the people of God have a measure of relief from the Philistines, this lusty man was an idiot.

-- But, many of us have know lots of idiots who have followed their libido rather God.

-- Yet, note what Delilah did to bring this man of might to his knees.

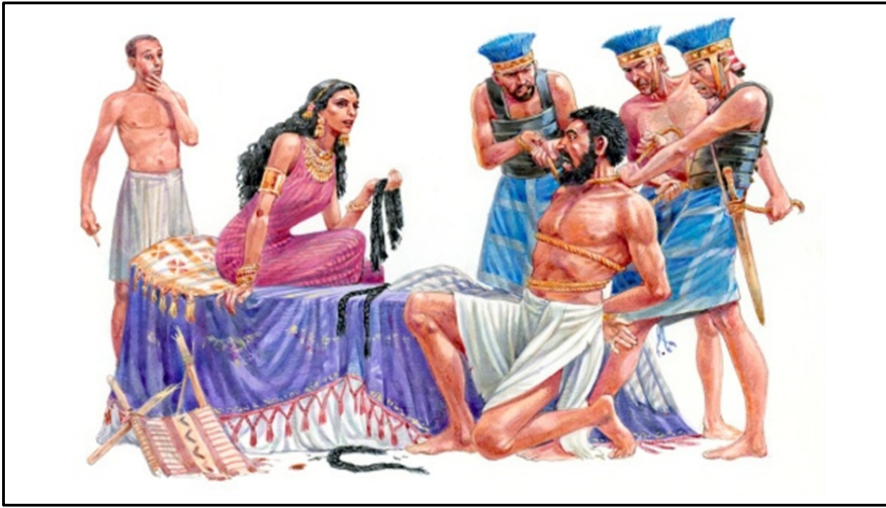
-- Samson had lied to her about his strength three times. How could he not have seen her treachery?

-- Then, this third Philistine woman whom Samson had become entangled with.

-- Delilah was motivated by her desire for the 1,100 pieces of silver, said . . . READ SLIDE

-- Telling her his secret had become a litmus test of his professed love for her (and there's a lesson in that for those of us tempted to do the same).

TR: And, finally . . .



. . . this judge of Israel was worn down by the Chinese Water Torture of her vexing words . . .
TR: And the outcome . . .



. . . as portrayed by Rembrandt, was horrific . . .
-- If you want to wear your man down, remember that you have such an ability to get your man to become “your boy.”
TR: And then, remembering this power, . . .



**How to wear down your man . . . and
get the husband you never wanted.**

1. Remember how powerful an influence you are, and how much impact your relentless and persistent words have.
2. Become a quarrelsome, unstoppable, nagging wife.

READ SLIDE

TR: Let the continual, dripping of the water torture . . .

**A foolish son is ruin to his father,
and a wife's quarreling
is a continual dripping of rain.**

ESV

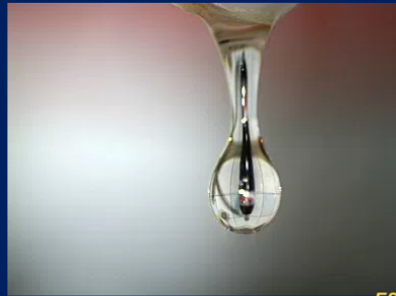
. . . ruin him. You can probably break him.

-- READ SLIDE

TR: But, your continual dripping must be . . .

Proverbs 27:15-16

**A continual dripping on a rainy day
and a quarrelsome wife are alike;
¹⁶ to restrain her is
to restrain the wind
or to grasp oil
in one's right hand.**



ESV

- . . . as unstoppable as the wind,**
- as slippery as oil that cannot be taken hold.**
- READ SLIDE**
- If you want to wear your man down, use the power of your influence, be relentless, unstoppable.**
- TR: Wear him down until he is motivated . . .**



How to wear down your man . . . and get the husband you never wanted.

- 1. Remember how powerful an influence you are, and how much impact your relentless and persistent words have.**
- 2. Become a quarrelsome, unstoppable, nagging wife.**
- 3. Motivate your husband to “move out,” at least emotionally, so you can take over.**

. . . READ SLIDE . . . maybe not physically, but at least emotionally.

TR: Make him want to live in the attic . . .

Proverbs 21:9 - Repeated as Proverbs 25:24

**It is better to live
in a corner of the housetop
than in a house shared
with a quarrelsome wife.**



ESV

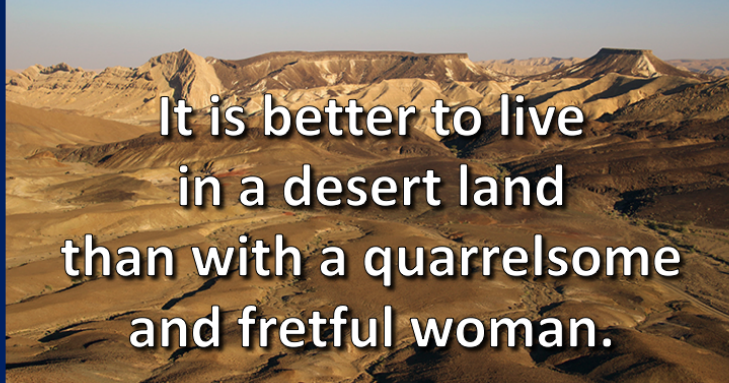
. . . or some other corner of the house rather than share time with you.

-- If you don't have a flat roof to drive him to, the garage or basement will do.

-- Or perhaps the gym or work or fishing or anything but the dripping torture.

TR: Let your words and your worry make him . . .

Proverbs 21:19



ESV

**. . . want to move out to the desert.
-- Complain and nag enough to drive his heart away.
TR: And you'll wear him down, but, be warned, the man you
get will not be the man you really want.**



**How to wear down your man . . . and
get the husband you never wanted.**

**A worn out man won't take the risk to
be a spiritual leader in your home.**

Do you really want . . . READ SLIDE

**TR: If you think your relentless nagging will decrease the
chance of him having an affair . . .**



How to wear down your man . . . and get the husband you never wanted.

A worn out man won't take the risk to be a spiritual leader in your home.
He will be more open to romantic advances from others.

. . . then you don't understand that the best way to affair-proof your marriage is to have a great marriage.

-- Not one filled with rules, but filled with servant-like, Christ-like love that puts the other person first.

TR: On the whole, men aren't great with emotions anyway, but a worn out guy will . . .



**How to wear down your man . . . and
get the husband you never wanted.**

**A worn out man won't take the risk to
be a spiritual leader in your home.**

**He will be more open to romantic
advances from others.**

**He will likely withdraw emotionally
and even physically.**

. . . READ SLIDE

TR: He may engage again but it will probably be an . . .



**How to wear down your man . . . and
get the husband you never wanted.**

He may at times explode in anger and
frustration.

. . . explosion of anger and frustration.

**TR: Yet, for many, it will become like the continual dripping has
destroyed his ear drums . . .**



How to wear down your man . . . and get the husband you never wanted.

He may at times explode in anger and frustration.

He may even become deaf to your many droning words.

. . . making him appear deaf to your many droning words, no matter how loud or nasty they become.

-- I can't imagine that's the kind of man any wife wants!

-- Right now, some of you are probably a bit ticked off at the teaching . . .

TR: Why am I picking on wives?



WHY THE FOCUS ON WIVES?

-- The proverbs do address wives specifically and repeatedly, so that's part of the reason.

TR: The main reason, though, is that our summer series is really about sowing to the Spirit and not the flesh. It is not about bad marital technique and communication, but about our sinfulness and the need for the Savior's touch if things are going to be really any better.

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. **Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.**"

ESV

This sinfulness is what the first book of the Bible tells us is part of the fall's impact.

-- God curses both Eve and Adam. The sin we inherit comes from Adam because he was the head of the woman, and even the head of humanity.

-- Note what God says to the woman . . . READ SLIDE

-- When it says that "your desire shall be contrary to your husband" it is not talking about physical desire, which could be inferred from the KJV "and the desire shall be to thy husband."

-- It is talking about a desire to control your husband.

TR: This is confirmed by the next chapter of Genesis, where Moses uses the same language to communicate about sin's

desire to control Adam and Eve's son, Cain . . .

Genesis 4:6-7

The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. **Its desire is contrary to you**, but you must rule over it."

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Why is marriage so hard . . . at least a great marriage of intimacy and love?

-- Sin has infected all of us. And, the curse has made infected, power-grabbing conflict a reality we face this side of glory.

TR: As the half-brother of Jesus tells us in James 4 . . .

James 4:1-3

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

ESV

... READ SLIDE

TR: So, I implore you, wives ...

**The wisest of women
builds her house,
but folly with her own hands
tears it down.**

ESV

. . . be wise.

-- READ SLIDE

-- Don't wear down your husband and get the man you really don't want.

TR: Having said that . . .



**REMEMBER, MEN CAN BE
QUARRELSOME, AS WELL!**

... READ SLIDE

TR: The proverbs address us as well, such as Proverbs 26:21 ...

**As charcoal to hot embers
and wood to fire,
so is a quarrelsome man
for kindling strife.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- We must not always be looking for a fight. We must not kindle the conflicts into a dirty bomb of hurtfulness, a fire that rages and destroys.

TR: We must not be . . .

**A hot-tempered man
stirs up strife,
but he who is slow to anger
quiets contention.**

ESV

. . . READ SLIDE

-- If we sow to the Spirit, we will reap the fruit of the Spirit, including self-control and gentleness and patience.

-- But if we have piled up our kindling and then stirred the coals, the strife we ignite will make us hate our homes.

TR: We may call ourselves men of action, and we may receive from the world money and fame, but . . .

Proverbs 17:1

**Better is a dry morsel
with quiet
than a house full of feasting
with strife.**

ESV

... READ SLIDE

TR: A few practical words to men who yearn for the “quiet” of true biblical peace, shalom, in the homes.



HOW TO BE KIND AND NOT QUARRELSOME

1. Be wiser than your years . . . flee youthful passions.

First, READ SLIDE

TR: I'm thinking of 2 Timothy 2, where the Apostle Paul tells his young protégé . . .

2 Timothy 2:22-23

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; **you know that they breed quarrels.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Cf. the foolishness of my youth in coaching and in refereeing . . .

-- There is a danger making every hill one to die on and every issue a litmus test of some kind.

TR: So, flee youthful passions and then, ask the Spirit . . .



HOW TO BE KIND AND NOT QUARRELSOME

1. **Be wiser than your years . . . flee youthful passions.**
2. Ask the Spirit to help you be “strength under control” – gentle, not a brawler.

. . . READ SLIDE

-- [meekness] is not weakness but strength under control.

TR: The first letter from Paul to Timothy tells us . . .

1 Timothy 3:2-3

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, **not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome**, not a lover of money.

ESV

. . . that an overseer must not be violent . . . not a brawler, looking for a fight . . . but gentle.

-- That gentleness seems to be in contrast to being quarrelsome.

-- This is not peace at any cost. It is not placating. It is not groveling.

-- It is strength under control . . . as a fruit of the Spirit.

-- It is a stallion of 16 hands that is immediately responsive to the Master's slightest movement of the reins.

TR: This gentleness will help us . . .



HOW TO BE KIND AND NOT QUARRELSOME

1. Be wiser than your years . . . flee youthful passions.
2. Ask the Spirit to help you be “strength under control” – gentle, not a brawler.
3. Stand aloof from dirty-fighting. Take the “high road.”

. . . READ SLIDE

TR: The Proverbs remind us . . .

It is an honor for a man
to keep aloof from strife,
but every fool
will be quarreling.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Instead of being hot-tempered . . .

**Good sense
makes one slow to anger,
and it is his glory
to overlook an offense.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: And then, from the passage that has been a north star for me in facing conflict situations as a pastor . . .



How to be kind and not quarrelsome

1. Be wiser than your years . . . flee youthful passions.
2. Ask the Spirit to help you be “strength under control” – gentle, not a brawler.
3. Stand aloof from dirty-fighting. Take the “high road.”
4. Teach, endure, & correct with gentleness.

. . . we learn we must READ SLIDE
TR: Again, from 2 Timothy . . .

And the Lord's servant must **not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness.** God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth . . .

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- We've seen that being quarrelsome is contrasted to gentleness, and here to kindness . . . and again, gentleness . . . strength under control.

--

TR: But, **WHEN** do we teach and correct and when . . .



How to be kind and not quarrelsome

1. Be wiser than your years . . . flee youthful passions.
2. Ask the Spirit to help you be “strength under control” – gentle, not a brawler.
3. Stand aloof from dirty-fighting. Take the “high road.”
4. Teach, endure, & correct with gentleness.
5. Differentiate the “threat levels.”

. . . must we learn to READ SLIDE

TR: Romans 14 spends an entire chapter on this question.

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

ESV

Verse 1 introduces the subject with the conclusion . . . READ SLIDE . . . do we not quarrel over opinions?

-- We make litmus tests out of nothing.

-- We say, like Delilah, if you don't do this you don't love me.

TR: Practically, one of the most helpful tools to not being quarrelsome is the understanding and the ability to differentiate the following . . .

**DIE FOR
DIVIDE FOR
DEBATE FOR
DECIDE FOR**

**DIVIDE
DISAGREE
DECIDE**

from Driscoll & Breshears, Vintage Church

In the words of Driscoll and Breshears, our values and our doctrines fall into four categories . . . READ SLIDE .

-- Some have simplified these four into three . . . READ SLIDE

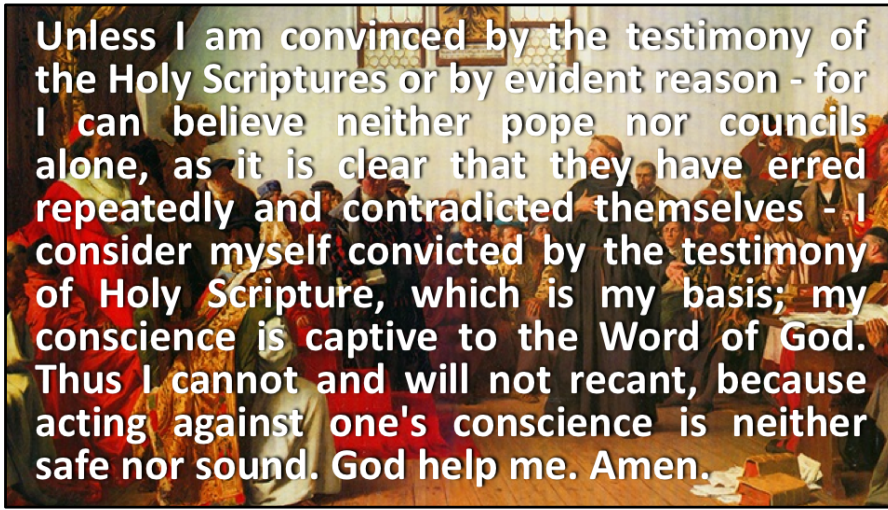
-- We should separate only for those things that are at the highest level, the essentials.

-- In the four category system, the to “die for” are the essentials of Christianity.

TR: There is a time to not submit . . .



**Even as 500 years ago Luther found he could not submit to the church authorities.
TR: As he is recorded to have said . . .**



Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason - for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves - I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. God help me. Amen.

“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason - for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves - I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. God help me. Amen.”

-- Whether we add the debated “Here I stand; I can do no other” before “God help me” . . . Luther modeled taking a stand, without being merely quarrelsome.

TR: There is a time NOT to submit . . .

SINFUL

submit only to God

UNWISE

submit to those in authority

NOT MY PREFERENCE

submit to those in authority

. . . when any authority is trying to make us sin, whether the sins of commission or omission.

-- But, when the decision is not one of sin, and only a judgment call of wisdom or an expression of personal preference, then we ought to submit.

-- When the other party, including our spouse, is sinning and they will not respond to our care-fronting them, we have a biblical obligation to begin Matthew 18 steps of redemptive discipline. It is not really a choice but rather a matter of obedience.

-- Yet, most of us won't do this . . . probably because of our pride. We can tell people we've HAD problems in the past but won't be forthcoming about our need for help NOW.

TR: Are we quarrelsome people? Are we wearing others down with the water torture of our relentless words?

Quarrelsome people tend to make almost everything a die/divide issue.

READ SLIDE

-- If everything is a “federal case” and we’ve lost all perspective, then we in a position to becoming quarrelsome individuals.

TR: Quarrelsome people . . .

Quarrelsome people often make responding to their demands, even when not a sin issue, into a “litmus test” of love or faithfulness.

READ SLIDE

-- If we connect dots that God didn't connect and then use it to judge another person's motives, like saying to Jesus, that because He didn't follow the tacked on Sabbath Day rules that He didn't love God, then we are on the way to being quarrelsome.

TR: Quarrelsome people . . .

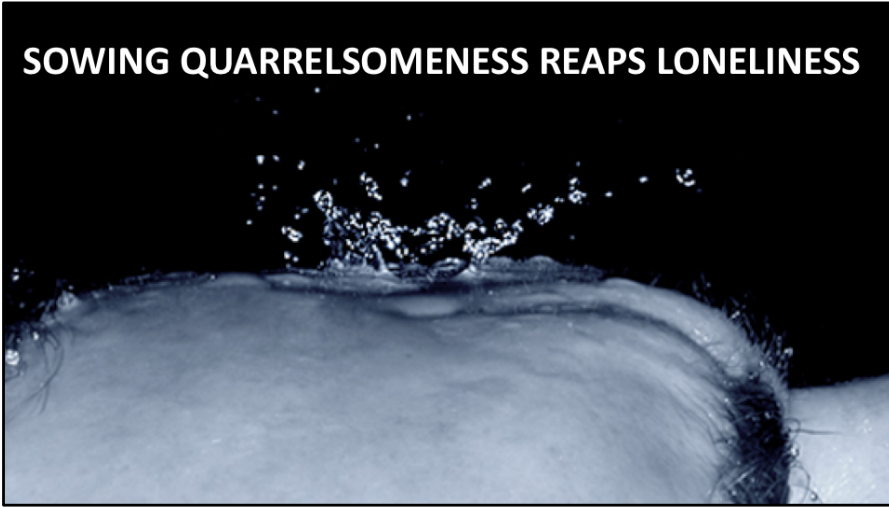
Quarrelsome people usually will only “submit” when they agree, even if it is only an issue of wisdom or preference.

READ SLIDE

-- If we can't remember the last time we submitted to someone in authority over us, without the threat of legal consequences forcing us to, then we may be on the way to be quarrelsome.

TR: Oh, Lord, help us not be . . .

SOWING QUARRELSOMENESS REAPS LONELINESS



. . . a dripping faucet.

PRAYER: Chance for people to respond . . . and repent, now seeking to sow to the Spirit for the fruit of “strength under control.”