

**2 Timothy 2:23** *Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights.*

### **Recognize.**

- The goal is to point people to Christ. It is to understand the other person.

**2 Timothy 2:24-26** -<sup>24</sup> *A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.*

<sup>25</sup> *Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.* <sup>26</sup> *Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.*

- When the conversation has turned foolish (when it has escalated, when its gossip, when it attacks the person)

**Proverbs 26:20** - *Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.*

**Take Control** Your words, your emotions, your thought process, your motives. Turn your filter on before engaging.

**PROVERBS 25:28** - *A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.*

**Psalms 141:3** - *Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.*

### **Minimize.**

- The collateral damage,

**Ephesians 4:29** - *Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

### **Be Choosey**

- About what you engage, about what you post. Not everything needs your input. May you delete more than you post.

**James 1:19-20** - *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,<sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.*

**Kenny Rogers once said** – You've got to know when to hold'em, know when to fold'em, know when to walk away, and know when to run.