

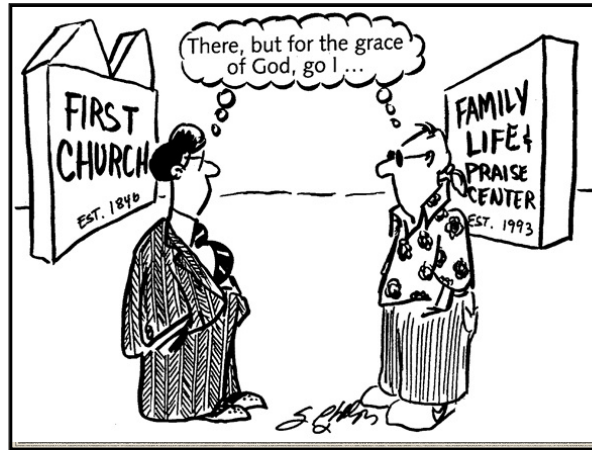
apttoteach.org

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**2 Timothy 2:20-26**  
**Lesson #29**  
**Dealing with Opposition**  
**11/12/2023**

1



2

**Ephesus was unique in that Paul wrote one letter to the church (Ephesians) and two others to its shepherd (Timothy)**

<p>ch.1-3 What Christ has done <b>FOR</b> us. <b>Our Identity</b></p>	<p>ch.4-6 What Christ is doing <b>IN</b> and <b>THROUGH</b> us. <b>in Action</b></p>
---	--

**What is our calling?**  
“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of **the calling with which you have been called,**” 4:1

3

### What makes up a healthy church?

 Financing	 Facilities	 Doctrine
 People		 Leadership

4

## There may be other things that are far more important.

When addressing the church Paul's **EMPHASIS** was:

Not outward image **but inward integrity**  
Not organizational **but relational**  
Not orthodoxy **but orthopraxy**  
Not uniformity **but synergism**  
Not missions **but community**

5

*Review 2 Timothy 2*

“14 **Remind them** of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to **wrangle about words**, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the word of truth**. 16 But avoid **worldly and empty chatter**, for it will lead to further ungodliness,”

- There are unavoidable conflicts **but they need not lead to combat.**
- Leaders are to help others **see the big picture.**

1. **What is MAJOR and what is minor?**  
2. **How should we HANDLE disagreements?**

6

*2 Timothy 2*

“20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if a man cleanses (remove the leaven) himself from these things, he will be **a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.**”

*Interpretive Paraphrase*

“20 I want you to realize and reach your full potential to edify the Body of Christ. In a church as in a house there are some highly valued vessels and others that are not as valuable. 21 To become valuable a person should take responsibility in working to rid themselves of the immaturities that block them from reaching their potential and calling. You are capable of great honor, holiness, and helpfulness in God’s kingdom. But it will not be realized until you see and strive for maturity.”

**Parent (adult) - Grow up.**

7

*1 Corinthians 13*

“11 When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I **did away with childish things.** 12 For **now we see in a mirror dimly**, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but **the greatest of these is love.**”

**Characteristics of Spiritual Adults:**

1. *They aren’t childish.*
2. *They aren’t “know it alls”.*
3. *They know they are loved and they know how to love.*

8

The path to spiritual adulthood, - *security, significance, and serenity.*

9

**How to put away childish things.**

**Landscape architecture**  
*(ecology, engineering, & aesthetics)*

10

(!)      (.)      (,)      (?)

“I AM FULLY COMMITTED.”    “I have some settled beliefs.”    “I have tentative insights.”    “I have questions not answers.”

*Proverbs 18:13*

“He who gives an answer **before he hears**, It is folly and shame to him.”

*1 Corinthians 13:12*

“For now we see **in a mirror dimly**,”

11

Learning from our critics does not mean that we share all their beliefs.

They often see things that we are afraid to look at or recognize for what they are.

We become wise by developing antenna, not horns.

12

*2 Timothy 2*

“22 Now **flee** from youthful lusts, and **pursue** (follow after) righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

*Interpretive Paraphrase*


“22 Get over the childish passions of your spiritual infancy. Set your sights on adult behavior. This involves doing what is right in the eyes of God, trusting God in the ups and downs of life, offering your life to others in sacrificial charity, and being a peddler of peace from the inside out as one with those of a pure heart.”

**Pure Heart - Take baptism seriously.**

*Ephesians 4:23-24*

“lay aside the old self . . . put on the new self”

13




*Matthew 15:8*

**“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far - - - - from me.”**

14

*Ephesians 4*

“22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, . . ., 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”



15



**The Holy Spirit is a Helper not a Surrogate. He works within us, not outside us. He does not DRAW us to himself but POINTS us to Christ.**



**Believers are soldiers not spectators in Spiritual warfare. The Spirit intercede for us in prayer, but arms us for warfare.**

16

**Satan inspires hope**



**in anything and everything but Christ.**

17

**Satan inspires holiness**



**if it is superficial, judgmental and attached to entitlement.**

18



Satan inspires reform



so long as it retains shame and bitterness.

19

*Acts 15*

“7 After there had been **much debate**, Peter stood up and said to them, . . .”

“12 All the people kept silent, and they were **listening** to Barnabas and Paul . . .”

“19 (**James speaks**) Therefore it is **my judgment** that - ”

“22 Then it **seemed good** to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church -”

“28 For it **seemed good** to the Holy Spirit and to us -”

- **Mature believers need WISDOM** to apply what already HAS BEEN revealed.
- **Adults convince more than coerce.**

20

God has given us a compass more than a road map.



21

*2 Timothy 2*

“23 But **refuse** (have nothing to do with) foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord’s bond-servant must **not be quarrelsome**, but **be kind** to all, **able to teach**, **patient when wronged**, 25 with **gentleness** (as a parent to a child) **correcting those who are in opposition**, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may **come to their senses** and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

*Interpretive Paraphrase*

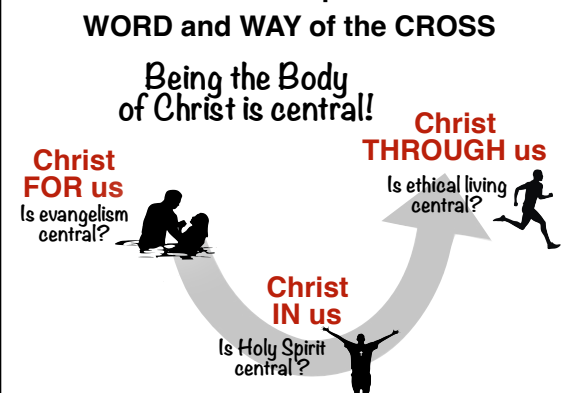
“23 Childish behavior just leads to quarrels. 24 As peacemakers, adults are to build unity by speaking truth in love with sensitivity. 25 They are to be gracious and forbearing as they strive to bring life and light to those who bear God’s Image. They are to call for repentance — 26 the change of mind and heart of those who bear God’s Image.”

**Peacemaker - Be a Body Builder.**

22

The Gospel  
WORD and WAY of the CROSS

Being the Body of Christ is central!

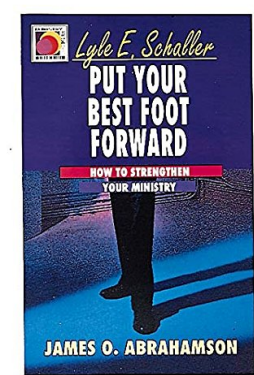


**Christ FOR us**  
Is evangelism central?

**Christ THROUGH us**  
Is ethical living central?

**Christ IN us**  
Is Holy Spirit central?

23



Put Your Best Foot Forward


without losing your balance or kicking your neighbor.

24



“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

“Whom you would change you must first love, **and they must know that you love them.**”




Martin Luther King, Jr.

25

*Ephesians 4:15*  
 “but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,”

<b>L</b> istening to another’s story Don’t ignore	<b>A godly path to changing another person’s mind</b>
<b>O</b> verlooking another’s flaws Don’t Exaggerate	
<b>V</b> aluing another’s virtues Don’t shun God’s Image	
<b>E</b> mpathizing with another’s feelings Don’t Disrespect or Demonize	

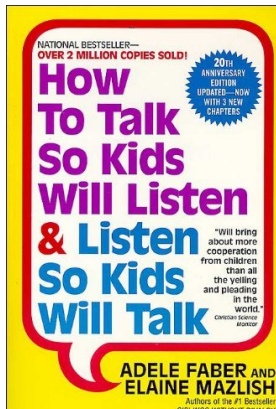
26



Small talk, Shop talk, Shield talk, Search talk, Straight talk, Steer talk, Self talk

**CONNECTING WITH SELF AND OTHERS**  
 Sherod Miller, Daniel Wackman, Elan Kurnally, Phyllis Miller


27



NATIONAL BESTSELLER—OVER 2 MILLION COPIES SOLD!  
 20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION UPDATED—NOW WITH 3 NEW CHAPTERS

“Will bring about more cooperation from children than all the yelling and pleading in the world.”  
 —CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY, *ABC NEWS*

ADELE FABER AND ELAINE MAZLISH  
 Authors of the #1 Bestseller *SIBLINGS WITHOUT RIVALRY*



“Living with real children can be humbling.”

28

“T”ing up good leadership

Tender	Tough
Thankful	Tolerant
Trust	Trustworthy
Truth	Transparent

“T”ing up close relationships

29

2 Timothy

Next week 2 Timothy 3:1-9

“Last days culture”



30