

## How should I avoid being argumentative with others?

If I am not careful, I can easily become argumentative with those around me, especially if they are unbelievers and being antagonistic regarding the things of God.

1. Why should I worry about being argumentative?

2 Timothy **2:22-24**

1 Peter **2:23**

James **1:20**

2 Corinthians **6:3-4**

As a Christian, we are called by God to not “strive” or be argumentative with those around us. One of the reasons for this call of God is because when we are argumentative, we are not behaving as Christ would have us behave. We have been called to always do those things that honor God and Christ.

2. What should I remember about their nature and thoughts?

John **3:19-20**

Proverbs **20:6**

2 Corinthians **10:12**

1 Corinthians **2:14**

Romans **1:32**

Genesis **1:26-27**

By nature, the unbeliever does not their evil and wicked desires exposed as such. Men desire for others to encourage them in their behaviors and even approve of them. The vast majority of people you will encounter will understand themselves as being “good” people and are not rightly deserving of judgment nor condemnation. One of the reasons they justify their own behavior as acceptable is because they evaluate their behaviors and thoughts with those that are around them. Since everyone else around them is doing the same things they are doing, they consider themselves to be just fine. What they forget about doing is evaluating their behavior and thoughts to the standard for right behavior and thoughts, which is the nature of God in whose image and likeness we have been created.

3. What things should I remember about myself?

1 Corinthians **6:9-11**

Ephesians **2:1-4**

1 Peter **4:1-5**

Galatians **4:8-9**

Ephesians **2:11-14**

Just like everyone else, in comparison to God's righteous character, I was (and am) no better off than they. I was actively engaged in many of the same sinful behaviors and thought nothing of it. The mind I have now is because of the work of God in my life. It is God who opened my eyes to the reality of my own nature, of His nature, and the righteous judgment that I deserved. I need to therefore remember that we too were once as ignorant as they are now and what I really need to do is share Christ with them and pray that Christ will reveal Himself in their lives.

4. What are some helpful principles?

Ephesians **4:31-32**

Proverbs **10:12**

Romans **10:3**

Proverbs **15:18**

Proverbs **18:21**  
Romans **12:18-21**

Proverbs **15:1**

It is helpful to remember that Christ has forgiven me for what I have done to Him, how could I not forgive others for doing the same things I have done. Most people you encounter are completely ignorant of just how just and righteous God is and as they look to justify their actions and be accepted, they create and develop their own definition of right and just behavior. In my words and actions I have the ability to either build up another or destroy the same. I need to therefore not increase the state of wrath and condemnation but seek peace with others and to remain calm and in control so that they might see the patience and character of God in me.