

## Why do people argue and fight?

We live in a time that calls for peace and getting along is being constantly raised, yet fights and arguments seem to be on the rise.

1. Does the Bible specifically address this question?

James **4:1-4**

John **16:2-3**

The Bible tells us that fights and arguments continue because people are lustful towards the things of this world. They are unwilling to submit themselves to what God wants so they fight to get what they want regardless of God's desire for them. Furthermore, fights and arguments take place because people believe that in their fighting that they are actually fighting on behalf of God and God's calling even while they are trying to destroy those who are pursuing a life that is pleasing to God.

2. What are the primary motivations behind arguments?

John **3:18-21**

1 John **2:15-17**

Genesis **3:2-7**

Deuteronomy **12:8**

Judges 17:6; **21:25**

Proverbs **21:2**

Arguments are common because people are becoming more and more defensive about their own sinful acts. They do not want anyone to tell them that what they are doing is actually sinful and self destructive. People argue because they are pursuing what they want for themselves (selfishness) and they are taking a short timers view in that all that they see are the things of this world and are committed to the thought that what they need is approval for their sinful behaviors and to obtain more things of this world. Since the fall of man in the garden of Eden, mankind has been trying to overthrow the rule of God and decide for themselves what is good and right behavior and what is wicked and wrong behavior. It is the nature of every man to identify their own behavior and good and proper and the works of those who disagree as being evil and wrong.

3. What can be done to avoid arguments?

Romans **12:18-21**

Matthew **21:12-13**

Proverbs **28:25**

Proverbs **4:11-16**

Romans **16:17-18**

Titus **3:8-10**

It is important to recognize that not all arguments can nor should be avoided. We are to do our best at avoiding arguments where possible, but not at the expense of being in submission to God and His word. The problem we have to face is that many times our arguments are not over the things of God and His Holiness but over the things of this world. We can also identify those who seek to provoke arguments and avoid them if possible and definitely do not fall into their argumentative traps.

4. What should I do if I find myself in an argument?

2 Timothy **2:22-25**

Proverbs **15:1**

1 Corinthians **6:1-8**

James **1:19-22**

**Proverbs 15:18**

**Proverbs 9:6-8**

If you are unable to avoid an argument it is important to speak to the issue being addressed and speak calmly and cautiously in order to avoid increasing any problems. It is also wise to take the issue before some of your trusted Christian brethren so that the issue can be discussed biblically and not emotionally. It is fruitful to consider whether the issue is even worth arguing over and possibly allow yourself to be wronged for the sake of the Gospel. While there are some issues that we must stand firm in, there are far more that we can simply let go. We must also be committed to listen to the other person and not get angry because anger only makes the problem worse.