

Becoming a Useful TOOL for God's Purposes

Growing into a vessel of honor/ 2 Timothy 2:20-26, part 3

A GRACIOUS instrument is a useful instrument, 2 Timothy 2:23-24 Chris Mueller 10-28-2018

Introduction:

*Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?*

- #1 A useful tool will have a CLEANSED life *21a Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor*
- #2 A fruitful tool will desire a SANCTIFIED heart *21b sanctified*
- #3 A effective tool will pursue becoming USEFUL to God *21c useful to the Master*
- #4 A impactful tool will choose to do WORKS for God *21d prepared for every good work*
- #5 A useable tool will develop a PURE heart *22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

*23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.
24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome,
but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged.*

#6 An effective tool will discern how to _____ arguments 23

23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

1 Peter 3:15 sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

George Knight Because these foolish arguments are unedifying and particularly because they beget quarrels, Timothy is to avoid them.

John Calvin He calls them foolish, because they are uninformative; that is, they contribute nothing to godliness...

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, 11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

#7 A fruitful tool of Christ will pursue a _____ manner 24

*24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome,
but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged...*

NOT BE QUARRELSOME

1ST KIND TO ALL

Peter Marshall *O God, when I am wrong, make me easy to change, and when I am right, make me easy to live with.*

Matthew 11:29 *Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.*

Matthew 21:5 *Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.*

1 Thessalonians 2:7 *We proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.*

Ephesians 4:15 *speaking the truth in love*

2ND ABLE TO TEACH

Matthew 7:28 *The crowds were amazed at His teaching; 29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

Romans 10:17 *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

John 17:17 *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

3RD PATIENT WHEN WRONGED

John MacArthur *The godly leader who is an honorable vessel must be patient when wronged, which is perhaps the hardest qualification mentioned here. If the flesh of the old self is not firmly resisted, we are likely to become more offended when we ourselves are wronged, than when our Lord and His truth are attacked.*

1 Peter 2:21–23 *For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.*

William Barclay *There may be greater sins than touchiness...but there is none which does greater damage in the Christian church.*

Chrysostom *A patient man is one who, having the resources and opportunity to avenge himself, chooses to refrain from the exercise of these.*

Hudson Taylor *Three indispensable requirements for a missionary:*

Take home:

A If Gracious Christ is your _____, you'll want to grow to be a Gracious _____

Matthew 11:29 *Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.*

B Try to master a balance of _____ and _____

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

C Kindness is what leads to _____

Romans 2:4 *...do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

D No one can be truly gracious without being truly _____ by grace

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. How many reasons can you give for why Christians should work hard not to argue?
2. What kind of arguments should a Christian avoid? When is it good to debate theology or scripture?
3. Do genuine believers today actually WANT TO BE honorable vessels/useful tools? Why or why not?
4. How many reasons can you give for why Christians should grow more and more gracious?
5. How do Christians stand firm on convictions over truth but remain gracious with others who disagree?
6. What types of injustice happen to Christians in California that would require them to be patient when wronged?
7. What steps will you take this week to become more gracious?

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