

## 2 Timothy 2:23-26

### Rules of Engagement

*Continue with the good work ...*

#### I. Contentious Influencers

- A. Embrace Error
- B. Breed Quarrels
- C. Promote Disunity

#### II. The Lord's Servant

- A. Reasons Biblically
- B. Engages Wisely
- C. Promotes Harmony

#### III. Reclaimed Troublers

- A. See the Light
- B. See their Sin
- C. Escapes the Devil

*... with grace and integrity.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. What happens if church leaders ignore people who are causing trouble in the church?
2. What are some ways Paul describes a servant of God who wants to correct someone?
3. What should someone do if they realize they have been believing and teaching things about God and Jesus that are not true?

### **Dump the Thump**

I'm sure it has happened, but I don't think I know of anyone who was converted to Christ or had an errant view corrected by being his over the head with the Bible. Granted, overzealousness when it comes to evangelism and doctrinal accuracy does not generally seem to be a problem in our context. But assuming we, especially church leaders, take the opportunity to engage people with the Word, we need to do so wisely. We can't waste our time with ridiculous and worthless conversations, so avoid those! But when we do engage people on matters that matter in an effort to win them over to the truth, we need to do so, as Paul says, not by being argumentative, but with kindness, patience, gentleness, and longsuffering. We need to engage those who are in the "snare of the devil" with uncompromising reliance on the truth of the Bible, prayer, and a special measure of Spirit-filled grace.