

## RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO CONTENTIOUS TROUBLEMAKERS – 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-8

At times in every church there appear bad actors that seek to spoil us through contentious behaviour and troublemaking. Some people lose their spiritual minds along life's journey and later become serious \_\_\_\_\_ problems. All these folks can \_\_\_\_\_ us in many ways with things such as false teachings, evil speaking and gossip, self-will, judgmental spirits, bitterness and unforgiveness. We are confronted with this more often than you might think and address them privately when possible, so as not to disrupt our work. In today's text Paul points out such individuals with their \_\_\_\_\_ manners giving us a doable means to respond when challenged.

### 1. Recognizing problem people – 1 Timothy 6:3-5b

#### a. Their identifying marks

- Oppose practical teaching (the context is servanthood)
- Consent not to wholesome words
- Consent not to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Consent not to the doctrine which is according to godliness

#### b. Their \_\_\_\_\_ character and conduct

- Proud – prideful in spirit and conduct — having a high opinion of themselves
- Ignorant (biblically) – blinded from truth by \_\_\_\_\_
- Fond of constant questions – enjoy circular questions and debates, not accepting a clear answer
- Fond of bitter disagreements with words and details – relish arguing and straining on a gnat

#### c. Their manifested traits

- Envy – discontent and resentment concerning another's gain
- Strife – bitterness over fundamental issues, practices or doctrines
- Railings – reviling using harsh language
- Evil surmisings – \_\_\_\_\_ something evil is true about something, someone, or our church with no proof or confirmation
- Perverse disputings – unreasonable and unwarranted arguing

- Corrupt minds – lying to themselves and then believing it is true
- Destitute of the truth – without a \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of biblical truth and how all scripture connects together without error or contradiction
- Supposing that \_\_\_\_\_ is godliness – always seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ something: attention to their cause, intellectual or spiritual recognition, satisfaction from believing things different, pleasure from defending God, notoriety to further their cause, acquiring money and resources... and that this thinking and behaviour is in line with God

## 2. Responding to them and their contentions – 1 Timothy 6:5c-8

### a. Withdraw thyself

- Do not keep company with them
  - If they are members of our church, follow the biblical instructions of Mt. 7:1-5; 18:15-20
  - If they are a family member, and \_\_\_\_\_ members of our church, tell them to stop communicating these things and behaving this way as it will negatively affect or possibly end your personal relationship
- Ask or tell them to withdraw from the church
  - If they are members we follow Mt. 7:1-5; 18:15-20; Titus 1:1:15-16; 3:9-11
  - If they are \_\_\_\_\_ members we may try to work with them or simply ask them to leave and not return until or unless they repent and change

### b. Be the opposite – seek to live a \_\_\_\_\_ life

- Godly and godliness is rejecting the sinful practices of this present evil world and being a follower of Jesus Christ, adopting his thinking, speech and behaviour

### c. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in this life with whatever God has given you...

- Godliness with contentment is \_\_\_\_\_
- The only thing you can take with you is your personal \_\_\_\_\_ in this life
- The only thing any person really needs is food, shelter and clothing
  - This is not to say that having things or being wealthy is wrong, it's just that no material thing can buy a good name or character – 1 Timothy 6:10