

## Being Ready vs Casting before swine

I figure since this forum seems to be the place to share the gospel with unbelievers, that this is the right place to post this.

Paul said this to Timothy (but of course I'm sure some unbeliever will reject that it happened)

*preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and teaching.*

*(2Ti 4:2 EMTV)*

As believers I personally see this as a call to all of us to be prepared to 'discuss' our beliefs with nonChristians...to help give them insight as to why we believe what we believe.

However.....

This is to be balanced along with Christ's own words....(again, I expect unbelievers to doubt the validity of the claim...as is their nature to do).

*Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*

*(Mat 7:6 EMTV)*

Jesus' words show us there is a limit to sharing the gospel with a person. He confirms this thought elsewhere...

*And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.*

*(Mat 10:14 EMTV)*

*And as many as do not receive you nor hear you, as you leave from there, shake off the dust underneath your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom or for Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"*

*(Mar 6:11 EMTV)*

*And as many as will not receive you, when you go out from that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them."*

*(Luk 9:5 EMTV)*

There is only a certain amount of abuse we as believers have to take from unbelievers.

Once they begin to reject what is offered to them...when they 'will not receive you or hear your words' as you try to help them understand...your obligation is ended with that person and you are to shake to dust off and move along.

Arguing with other believers is one thing...we are typically trying to correct abuse of the intent of the scriptures. One believer listens to another believer, and so as we care for our brethren we should want to be sure we ALL are growing closer to the absolute truth of Gods word day by day. And of course it gets heated at times.

Paul says this...

*This testimony is true; for which cause rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,*

*(Tit 1:13 EMTV)*

Granted there is a context therein, but it isnt necessary to present it because my only point with this verse is the words "rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, "

This to me shows that we rebuke our brethren BECAUSE we love them...that they will return to sound doctrine...the pure simplicity of the gospel.

Unbelievers are another matter entirely, however.

Because their minds are entirely unenlightened to the gospel, and because it is impossible for US to change their minds unless GOD draws them and opens their eyes, we do not have to subject ourselves to continued abuse by unbelievers once we have given them the reason for our beliefs and they have made it blindingly clear that nothing can be said to them to cause them to even remotely try to understand.

Whats my point ?

The point is this.

Do you feel as tho, as a christian, that you have to keep arguing with someone because you feel you need to convince them ?

You dont.

Nor are you required to.

Nor are you required to keep arguing with the unenlightened mind in an effort to 'save' them.

God sent Jonah to Ninevah (again...we can expect unbelievers to claim it aint so) because GOD saw that many thousands of Ninevites were ready to believe in Him.

So He SENT Jonah, for lack of a better word, to Ninevah to preach to them.

The mission was a success.

Why ?

Because of Jonah ?

No, because of GOD.

Nothing WE can do will change the mind of the unbelieving.

In fact if their minds are not ready for the truth we can actually find ourselves doing more damage in the long run than good by persisting with them.

Jesus tells us not to cast pearls before swine.

Not that I feel unbelievers are swine, but the swine was 'unclean' or 'common', and I do feel that that applies in some way as to make a distinction between those who have been sanctified by the blood of Christ and those who haven't.

In essence, don't keep pushing His truth onto those who rabidly refuse it

If they've shown that they don't WANT the truth with aggressive resistance, your job is done. Don't drive yourself nuts trying to change someone who isn't ready not because they don't want to be...but because they simply are not being drawn by God and have had their minds prepared by Him to accept the gospel.

Many years ago I would drive myself near insane trying to convert unbelievers.

Then one day as I was about to lose my mind the Lord presented this passage to me...

Nevertheless the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those that are His," and, "Let everyone naming the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness."

(2Ti 2:19 EMTV)

HE knows those who are His.

It doesn't matter if \*I\* know who they are or not.

I have His instruction that tells me how to handle the situation and that's all I need concern myself with.

HE tells me not to cast pearls before swine.

HE tells me to shake the dust off and move along.

How can I go wrong in just knowing that HE knows those who are His whether \*I\* do or not ?

How can I go wrong in just obeying Him and just leaving an unbeliever be who is being aggressive and clearly wants nothing to do with His truth ?

I can't.

And neither can you, dear brethren.