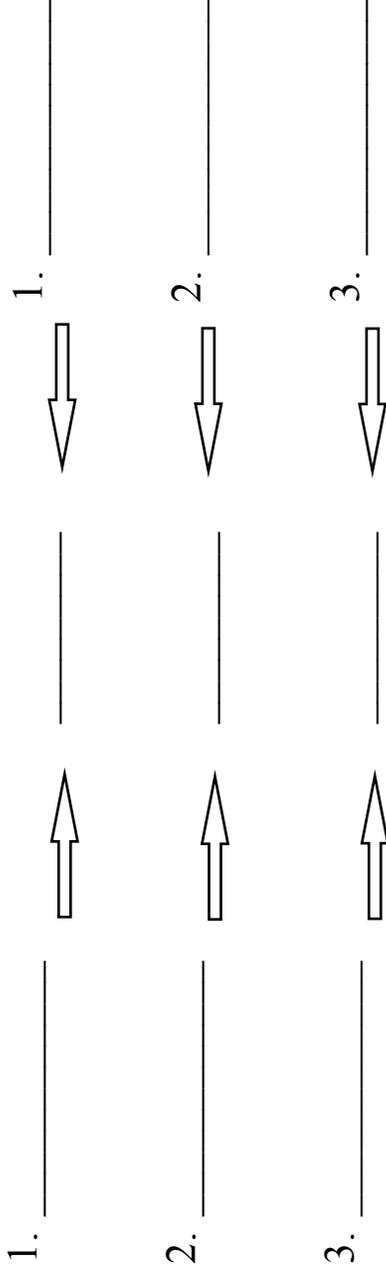


ARGUMENT

(INFORMED
Prov. 3:13-26)

An argument philosophically speaking is nothing more than a reasoned presentation of ideas. Developing an "argument" is one of the most valuable ways to learn and clarify your position.
2 Timothy 2:24 & Colossians 4:5,6

(IGNORANT
2 Thess. 2:10)



“What the Bible Says about Faith Opinion & Love”

”What the Bible Says Series”

#1 Faith, Opinion, and Love

#2 Original Sin

#3 Predestination

#4 Eternal Security

#5 Salvation

“WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT . . . Faith, Opinion, and Love”

Key

In the early 1800’s the church was divided and the world found little reason to believe it’s message. In an attempt to unite the church, and bring evangelism to it’s peak effectiveness, several people from various church affiliations proposed unity on the basis of three principles.

- #1 In issues of faith (*Biblical essentials*) unity.
- #2 In issues of opinion (*non-Biblical issues*) liberty.
- #3 In all issues and circumstances love.

They resolutely put away man made CREEDS, OPINIONS, and TRADITIONS. They conscientiously studied and taught using Biblical TERMS to back Biblical principles and TEACHINGS. It was imperative to find SCRIPTURAL definitions for words rather than CONTEMPORARY definitions. They believed it was the author’s intention that the student should pursue not contemporary definitions to ancient terms.

Today the church is more divided than ever because of our inability to decide what are issues of Faith and what are issues of opinion. That which is an issue of opinion to one, is an issue of faith to someone else.

7. Some Bible Scholars have used 1 Corinthians 15 to define “the Gospel” or the essentials of the faith. A more exhaustive definition might be found by looking at the words “preach” and “gospel” in their context through out the New Testament. *See Gareth Reese’s Commentary on Romans on pages 591 & 15*

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE US WHILE DETERMINING AREAS OF FAITH AND OPINION.

- #1 Focus on the Biblical author’s intentions and definitions of terms.
- #2 Satan wants brothers to be viewed as enemies, and enemies to be viewed as brothers.
- #3 Understand that their are issues of faith that God takes very seriously and expects us to struggle to keep the Church unified in doctrine and faith.
- #4 Consistently de-emphasize the importance of our personal preferences and emphasize the importance of glorifying Christ and building up those weaker in the faith.
- #5 Only those things commanded by rule, or spirit can be included as essentials (faith). Scriptural freedoms (opinions) are to be honored and seasoned with love.

Issues regarded in scripture as opinion include:

- a. eating meat vs. vegetables- Rom. 14:2
- b. one day esteemed special over another- Rom. 14:5
- c. eating meat sacrificed to idols- 1 Cor. 8:4-13
- d. getting married- 1 Cor. 7:38

5. A proper understanding of the terms “Scriptural, Unscriptural, and Anti-Scriptural will help in understanding what might distinguish between matters of faith and opinion.

- a. Scriptural - CONTAINED in scripture or Biblical terminology.
- b. Unscriptural - NOT contained in scripture or Biblical terminology.
- c. Anti-scriptural - AGAINST, opposing, or hostile to scripture or the Bible.

6. Paul encourages us to let God make clear those perspectives over which we differ. Meanwhile, He admonishes us to do two things.

Philippians 3:15-17

- a. Live up to the knowledge we UNDERSTAND.
- b. Follow those who live up to the SCRIPTURAL pattern of living.

Biblical Authority	Identity of Jesus
Miracles	Substitutionary Death
Resurrection of Jesus	Role of the Holy Spirit
Lord’s Supper	Baptism
End Times Events	Clergy vs. Priesthood
Bible Translations	of All Believers
Women’s Roles	Church Government
Qualifications of Leadership	Tithes & Offerings
Styles of Worship	Church Facility

1. **John 17:23** Jesus prayed that His disciples might “be brought to complete UNITY”, and that this would have a direct bearing on the world’s FAITH in Jesus as the Savior of man and sent by God.
2. **Ephesians 4:1-6** Paul urges the Ephesians to “keep the UNITY of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” It seems to be an easy assumption that such unity is ATTAINABLE not just wishful thinking.

Notice the context of this admonition.

- a. vs. 1 Doing this may be characterized as “living a life worthy of the CALLING you have received.”
- b. vs. 2 Virtues that make this unity possible include being completely HUMBLE,

GENTLE,
PATIENT,
BEARING with one another in
love.

c. vs. 4-6 There are issues of singularity

One BODY

One SPIRIT

One HOPE

One LORD

One FAITH

One BAPTISM

One GOD and Father of All

3. Jude communicates a tremendous sense of URGENCY for things wrongfully being taught to the saints. He told them to CONTEND for the faith and be aware of false teachers that have slipped into the church.

a. vs. 4 They change the GRACE of God into a license for IMMORALITY.

b. vs. 4 They DENY Jesus Christ our ONLY Sovereign and Lord.

c. vs. 8 They are characterized as DREAMERS.

d. vs. 8 They POLLUTE their own bodies.

e. vs. 8 They reject AUTHORITY.

f. vs. 8 They SLANDER celestial beings.

4. Paul urged the Christians in Rome to be careful how they treat those people who thought differently in DISPUTABLE matters.

Romans 14:1- 15:7

14:1 Accept him whose faith is weak.

14:1 Do not pass JUDGEMENT on disputable matters.

14:3 Do not look DOWN on someone who disagrees.

14:5 Each one should be fully CONVINCED in his own mind.

14:15 Do not destroy your brother in Christ by ENJOYING your freedom.

14:19 Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to MUTUAL edification.

14:20 It is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to STUMBLE.

14:22 What ever you believe keep between yourself and God.

14:23 The man who DOUBTS is condemned if he participates.

15:7 Accept one another, then, JUST as Christ accepted you,