

Give me strength, loving Lord, to let go
of what I think and instead pursue only
that which will help build peace, that
which will encourage, that which will
please You.



The book of Proverbs tells me, Lord,
that if I churn milk, I will get butter...if I
hit someone in the nose, it will
bleed...and if I stir up anger, I will get
into trouble (30:33). Help me to walk
away from arguments! And when I fail
to do so, give me wisdom, patience,
courage and love to deal with the
consequences.



Prayers for Difficult Times
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Arguments



*Again I say, don't get involved in
foolish, ignorant arguments that only
start fights. A servant of the Lord
must not quarrel but must be
kind to everyone.*

2 Timothy 2:23-24 NIV

Lord, I know You do not really care how eloquently I present my case; if I do not speak in love, I am like a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. The love You call me to is patient and kind; it is not arrogant or rude, it does not envy or boast, it does not insist on its own way, and it is not irritable or resentful (1 Corinthians 13:1-6). Teach me to stop arguing—and instead simply love.



Sometimes, Jesus, I think I am arguing on Your behalf. Remind me that you do not need my help convincing others to believe in You. That is Your Spirit's job. My job is to simply carry Your love out into the world.

No matter how hard we try, sooner or later we seem to end up in an argument with someone—and most of the time, it is someone close to us. Small differences of opinion lead to hurt feelings. The hostilities escalate. Eventually, we may not even remember who started it all. All we know is that we are locked in an argument and neither side wants to be the first to give in and apologize.

But God does not want us to quarrel. He calls us instead to kindness. This may mean setting our own opinions aside as being not all that important...so that instead we can hear what another thinks. It may require that we keep our mouths shut when angry words threaten to burst out of us...so that someone else has a chance to speak.

Does it (whatever "it" is) really matter all that much? Or can we choose to make kindness matter far more?

Creator God, use my voice and words to carry Your Spirit's presence into every conversation. Let me practice soft answers and calm tempers, while I avoid harsh words that stir up anger.
(Proverbs 15:1)



May I use my conversations only for Your glory, Lord. Remind me to seek to bless others with each thing I say. If arguments and cross words pour out of me, how can I claim to be filled with Your Spirit? Your Word tells us that a salt pond cannot yield fresh water, nor can a fig tree bear olives (James 3:12). Cleanse my heart first, dear God, and then my mouth and all its words, so that my life is not filled with contradiction.