

Discipleship Discussion Series—Debating (5)

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How we look at life, how we live, and how we behave is all based on what we believe.

Our beliefs often evolve by experiences and information.

Our beliefs guide our conversations and our voting.

Our beliefs determine our eternal destiny.

Our spirituality and how we govern are based on what we believe.

Debating beliefs about how we govern can lead to beliefs about how we live and how we understand life.

In these pages we explore how to lovingly debate about beliefs.

We consider how Jesus debated with the people while He was a Man on earth.

We become familiar with Scriptures that can guide us in how we debate.

Guidelines to Debating:

1. Set the focus—our interactions can lead to a debate; it is best to recognize when we are entering a debate.
2. It is important to remember that those who would ban and kill us do so because they do not yet know Our Father or Jesus.
3. We politely ask if we can have guidelines if we are going to debate.
4. We introduce Protected Speaking during which we do not interrupt the other with any comments or phrases.
5. We introduce Timed Speaking so that those who dominate are limited and those who are recessive have a time.
6. We introduce My Story, encouraging all of us to humbly recognize that we bring our own beliefs and views.
7. We may know we are correct, but our humility and politeness will more likely open others to change.
8. 5 and 5
 - a. Protected Speaking and Timed Speaking can be referred to as “5 and 5.”
 - b. We call it 5 and 5 because each speaker has 5 minutes for each time they speak.
 - c. The time can be flexible, for example, 10 minutes each, 15 minutes each.
9. We pick one topic and are careful to set secondary topics aside if they come into the conversation.
10. In preparation we research the topic for Primary Sources.
11. Each person is invited to make statements based on Primary Sources.
12. Based on our research we, in our 5 minutes, make simple, clear statements based on the Primary Sources.
13. Each of us will have the opportunity to refute statements with which we disagree.
14. Our refutation should also include Primary Sources.
15. Towards building a library of information, each debate may bring forward new perspectives on the topic.
16. We will then do more research to answer these additional perspectives.
17. We will keep a record of statements and Primary Sources so that others may go to our library to learn with us.

This is a compilation of some of the Scriptures about the topic, with a brief summary.

Please check the Scriptures to be sure of accuracy.

The # column is for easier reference.

B is the number of the Book as it is listed in the Bible.

Book, C, V, and V is for the Bible Book, the Chapter, the first Verse and, if needed, an end Verse.

We are to be transformed by the renewal of our minds [Romans 12:2].

We can renew our minds by evaluating our beliefs according to Scripture.

Do you believe the following statements?

By Bible Book Order:

#	B	Book	C	V	V	Topic	Statements	Agree or Disagree
1	20	Proverbs	15	1		Emotions	A quiet answer turns away wrath.	
2	20	Proverbs	15	1		Emotions	A harsh word stirs up anger.	
3	41	Mark	4	23		Listening	We are to have ears to hear.	
4	43	John	16	2	3	Others	They will ban us and kill us thinking they are offering a service to God, because they have not known the Father or Jesus.	
5	43	John	16	8	11	Conviction	It is the Holy Spirit Who convicts of sin because there are those who do not believe in Jesus.	
6	43	John	16	8	11	Conviction	It is the Holy Spirit Who convicts of righteousness because Jesus was going to the Father.	
7	43	John	16	8	11	Conviction	It is the Holy Spirit Who convicts of judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged.	
8	43	John	16	8	11	Conviction	We can invite the Holy Spirit to convict us and others.	
9	46	1 Corinthians	13	5		Polite	Love does not act unbecomingly.	
10	46	1 Corinthians	14	33		Orderly	God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.	
11	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	We can invite the Holy Spirit to manifest His Fruit in us.	
12	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes love.	
13	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes joy.	
14	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes peace.	
15	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes patience.	
16	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes kindness.	
17	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes goodness.	
18	48	Galatians	5	22		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes faithfulness.	
19	48	Galatians	5	23		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes	

#	B	Book	C	V	V	Topic	Statements	Agree or Disagree
							gentleness.	
20	48	Galatians	5	23		Behaviors	The fruit of the Holy Spirit includes self-control.	
21	49	Ephesians	4	1		Behavior	We are to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we've been called.	
22	49	Ephesians	4	2		Behavior	We are to walk with humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another with love.	
23	49	Ephesians	4	3		Behavior	We are to be diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.	
24	55	2 Timothy	4	2		Readiness	We are to be ready in season and out of season.	
25	55	2 Timothy	4	2		How	We are to speak the truth in Love.	
26	55	2 Timothy	4	2		What— Correction	We are to be ready to correct with great patience and instruction.	
27	55	2 Timothy	4	2		What— Rebuke	We are to be ready to rebuke with great patience and instruction.	
28	55	2 Timothy	4	2		What— Exhortation	We are to be ready to exhort with great patience and instruction.	
29	55	2 Timothy	4	3		Others	The time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine.	
30	55	2 Timothy	4	3		Others	The time will come when they will want to have their ears tickled.	
31	55	2 Timothy	4	3		Others	The time will come when they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their desires.	
32	55	2 Timothy	4	4		Others	The time will come when they will turn their ears away from truth.	
33	55	2 Timothy	4	4		Others	The time will come when they will turn their ears towards myths.	
34	59	James	1	19		Emotions	We are to be slow to anger.	
35	59	James	1	19		Listening	We are to be quick to hear.	
36	66	Revelation	12	11		My Story	We are to overcome by the Blood of the Lamb	

#	B	Book	C	V	V	Topic	Statements	Agree or Disagree
							and by our testimonies.	

The following are Perspectives that are based on Biblical principles though these are not directly expressed in Scripture. We invite the same diligence in assessing if the Perspectives align with God’s principles as we do in checking the above Scriptures for accuracy.

#	B	Perspectives	C	V	V	Topic	Statements	Agree or Disagree
	70	Perspectives				Emotions	Our emotions can speak louder than words.	
	70	Perspectives				Listening	The 5 and 5 helps us to hear and listen.	
	70	Perspectives				Metaphors	Jesus often used metaphors.	
	70	Perspectives				Metaphors	Metaphors can inform.	
	70	Perspectives				My Story	“Our Story,” our testimony about a topic will help us overcome.	
	70	Perspectives				Orderly	Topic Slide is when we blend, conflate and slide from topic to topic.	
	70	Perspectives				Orderly	It is best if we have JOT —Just One Topic.	
	70	Perspectives				Orderly	It is best if we have JOT —Just One Truth at a time.	
	70	Perspectives				Polite	Interrupting is rude.	
	70	Perspectives				Polite	The 5 and 5 helps us to not be rude.	