

Discernment - 7

How to Respond to Error

Outline

1. Have you understood the speaker correctly?
 - a. Was it as slip of the tongue?
 - b. Does he not balance this out with something else or somewhere else?
2. If what was said really wrong?
 - a. Check with other trusted sources
3. Is it an essential or a peripheral issue?
4. Pray about it
5. Get your own heart right – do not speak out of anger or frustration
6. Approach the speaker with humility and respect
 - a. Ask questions and do not pre-judge or attack
7. If it is a website or book – simply reject it and move on.
8. If the church has always taught this (before you joining) – leave if it is that serious.
9. If you have an investment in the church and the change is new then speak to the leadership.
10. Do not gossip, slander or cause division.
11. Division is more often caused by bad attitude than by bad doctrine.
12. If you have to leave, leave with your testimony intact.

Study Guide – How to Respond to Error

Read Acts 17:10-11

The brothers from Berea did not compare the gospel preached by Paul with their own beliefs but with the Scriptures. Otherwise they might have rejected the gospel out of hand. The plumbline is the Word of God. Many times we come to the Word with pre-conceived instead of the truth based solely on Scripture.

According to the teaching in this session, what things should I keep in mind in order to have the right response when hearing or reading what purports to be truth?

The “Contentiously Contending” booklet mentioned in today’s session has the Scriptural references to back up the principles listed in this section. Take the time to read through this book beforehand and be ready to discuss one of those passages.

The question of whether an issue is “essential” or “peripheral” is very important and was stressed in the teaching on discernment in this session. Take a few minutes and write down the essentials of the faith that are needed in order to witness to a non-believer. Do you know the Scriptures to back up your list?

Have you ever approached a peripheral issue with a closed mind that was more interested in being right than having a fair discussion and coming to a better understanding of the truth?

According to the teaching in this session, what are two scenarios where there is error or heresy in the church today that comes to mind? What are the approaches you should take to make sure?

What if you had to leave a church over a serious lack of truth, what you should be committed to do?

Conclusion:

Pray for two things in this regard today – that you will have an abiding love of the truth and at the same time have the right heart and attitude no matter what.