

## MESSAGE # 6: DON'T WRANGLE

Biblical Passages: 2 Corinthians 6-7:1, 2 Kings 3, 1 Corinthians 6

### I. Introducing the Subject:

Just out of my own observations and with some of the comments Paul has given Timothy, I think one of the great distractions in a fellowship occurs when the brethren allow themselves to be drawn into unprofitable or meaningless areas of dispute. I have selected these passages given above as being illustrative of that very thing and I have used the term "wrangle" in the sense of not wrestling meaninglessly with something that takes a lot of energy but does not produce lasting or meaningful results. We will have to look at every issue objectively, I think, but some may be classified in the sense that I offer here and these are easily seen and hardly disputacious.

### II. Discussion:

#### A. Avoid compromising situations....those in which you put yourself to the harm of the testimony.

Do not be yoked together with unbelief. Do not put yourself in a position where truth is subjective to error and be careful not to get in a place where testimony is silenced by position. The text of 2 Corinthians 6:14 following spells this out for us in a simple way and it is amazing to see how many believers in our age have complicated ways of explaining it to their own harm. Any situation like this will invariably affect the whole of the testimony and even if some small temporal gain might be made the actual loss is enormous.

#### B. Help those who help the work of the Lord, not those who work against the Lord.

This is the rebuke brought by Hanani against Jehoshaphat in 2 Kings 3. Three times in his ministry Jehoshaphat makes this mistake and three times he is soundly rebuked. He was a man of God but men of God err. That he accepted the rebuke and sought to mend his ways is to his lasting credit. Just be sure your energies are used for the Lord's cause and not for any of those things that work against His will.