



Dealing With Opposition

A Teaching Outline

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Dealing with those who oppose you.

Daniel faced opposition.

Daniel 6:10

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

Alexander opposed the ministry of Paul.

2 Tim. 4:14-15

Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

Apparently Timothy needed some encouragement. Most likely, so do many people around you.

Each day we have many opportunities to support and inspire family members, fellow workers, and even total strangers. People need help and affirmation all along the way.

David prayed for God to render judgment on his enemies.

Psalm 28:4

Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.

It's easy to pretend friendship. Wicked people often put on a show of kindness or friendship in order to gain their own ends. David, in his royal position, may have met many who pretended friendship only to meet their own needs.

David knew that God would punish these people eventually, but he prayed that their punishment would come swiftly. True believers should be straightforward and sincere in all their relationships.

A person should be recompensed according to his works.

Psalm 62:12

Also unto thee, O Lord, belongs mercy: for thou renders to every man according to his work.

It is tempting to use honor, power, wealth, or prestige to measure people.

We may even think that such people are really getting ahead in life. But on God's scales, these people are "lighter than a breath of air." What, then, can tilt the scales when God weighs us? Trusting God and working for him (62:12).

Wealth, honor, power, or prestige add nothing to our value in God's eyes; only the faithful work we do for him has eternal value.

How should a believer respond to Criticism?

Do not answer back.

John 19:9

He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer.

Proverbs 17:27

A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered.

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

Do not give an immediate reply.

Proverbs 15:28

The godly think before speaking; the wicked spout evil words.

Proverbs 29:20

There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking.

James 1:19-20

My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. [20] Your anger can never make things right in God's sight.

Respond in a gentle manner.

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger.

Proverbs 16:21

The wise are known for their understanding, and instruction is appreciated if it's well presented.

Proverbs 25:15

Patience can persuade a prince, and soft speech can crush strong opposition.

Agree with the possibility of truth.

Matthew 5:25

Come to terms quickly with your enemy before it is too late and you are dragged into court, handed over to an officer, and thrown in jail.

John 18:37

Pilate replied, "You are a king then?"

"You say that I am a king, and you are right," Jesus said. "I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."

When giving feedback, present it in a caring way.

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger.

Ask that the opposition be clarified.

John 18:34

Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"

Matthew 5:39-41

But I say, don't resist an evil person! If you are slapped on the right cheek, turn the other, too. [40] If you are ordered to court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. [41] If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.

Quarreling should be avoided.

Ephes. 4:31

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior.

Proverbs 17:14

Beginning a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

See if there is some way you can help.

Matthew 5:40-41

If you are ordered to court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. [41] If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.

Luke 6:27-28

"But if you are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. [28] Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

When appropriate, ask for forgiveness.

1 Samuel 15:24-26

Then Saul finally admitted, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. [25] Oh, please, forgive my sin now and go with me to worship the Lord."

[26] But Samuel replied, "I will not return with you! Since you have rejected the Lord's command, he has rejected you from being the king of Israel."

God will repay the oppressor

Romans 2:6

God will judge all people according to what they have done.

Romans 12:19

Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

The New Living Bible

