

## CONTRASTS THAT ACCENTUATE OUR REAL PRIORITIES IN DISCIPLESHIP

### CONTRAST #1: YOUR VOICE vs SPIRIT'S VOICE

#### KEY PRINCIPLE:

In a healthy discipling relationship, the one being disciplined quickly gains a spiritual " \_\_\_\_\_ " for the one discipling them. Because of that "two-edged sword," we must be very conscious of not over-riding the \_\_\_\_\_ voice with our \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### KEY THOUGHTS:

### CONTRAST #2: LEGALISM vs SPIRITUALITY

#### KEY PRINCIPLE:

Our responsibility in discipleship is not to tell people \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ their lives. That is \_\_\_\_\_ job! We must, therefore, address every issue from a \_\_\_\_\_ perspective. Our responsibility is to direct people to biblical \_\_\_\_\_, and communicate the biblical \_\_\_\_\_ that can lead them to respond to God's \_\_\_\_\_ and God's \_\_\_\_\_.

#### KEY THOUGHTS:

# CONTRAST #3: PREFERENCE vs REFERENCE

## KEY PRINCIPLE:

Be dogmatic about anything to which you can attach a properly applied biblical \_\_\_\_\_. In matters in which there is no clear biblical reference, be very careful not to \_\_\_\_\_ upon your disciple, or to \_\_\_\_\_ your disciple with your personal \_\_\_\_\_. Lead your disciple to ask the \_\_\_\_\_ questions. Sometimes we come to wrong \_\_\_\_\_ about matters, because we ask the wrong \_\_\_\_\_.

The question is NOT: "What's \_\_\_\_\_ with it?"

The question is: "What's \_\_\_\_\_ with it?"

The question is NOT: "Does the Bible say anything \_\_\_\_\_ that?"

The question is: "Is that the \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do?"

## KEY THOUGHTS:

In essential beliefs...emphasize \_\_\_\_\_.

Eph. 4:4-6

1 Cor. 1:10

In non-essential beliefs...emphasize \_\_\_\_\_.

Rom. 14:1-4, 12-13

In all our beliefs...emphasize \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Cor. 13:2

## CONTRAST #4: EXTERNAL FOCUS vs INTERNAL FOCUS

### KEY PRINCIPLE:

If the person you are discipling is being “conformed into the image of Christ” \_\_\_\_\_, there will most likely be changes they determine they need to make \_\_\_\_\_. Again, those are God’s \_\_\_\_\_! We must make certain our focus is on the Spirit conforming them into who \_\_\_\_\_ wants them to be, not what \_\_\_\_\_ think they should be! The Pharisees are a great reminder that it is possible to have all of the \_\_\_\_\_ right, and the \_\_\_\_\_ wrong.

### KEY THOUGHTS:

## CONTRAST #5: POLITICAL CORRECTNESS vs BIBLICAL CORRECTNESS

(What is “Christian and Spiritual”)

(What is “Biblical and Scriptural”)

### KEY PRINCIPLE:

Two key things: 1) Always speak the \_\_\_\_\_, and  
2) Always speak it in \_\_\_\_\_. Be very aware, however, that truth is a whole lot like facts!  
It, too, can be downright \_\_\_\_\_ at times!

### KEY THOUGHTS:

### KEY QUOTE:

*“Today there is much talk among Christians about the need for unity. Wherever Christians gather you can hear someone saying, “If only all the believers could get together and agree, then the world would sit up and take notice! Then the devil would be running scared! Then there would be real revival!” The whole “Ecumenical Movement” is based on such a conclusion.*

*I must admit the thought sounds wonderful to have all those different denominations (and “non”- denominations) in love and fellowship with one another—that would be something, wouldn’t it? Ah...but don’t hold your breath... it can’t happen. There’ll always be a couple of real Christians around to spoil it!*

What?! You say, "How could real Christians spoil it? Wouldn't they be the very ones who would be the most loving and ready to unite?" Oh yes! True believers are full of love—love for God, love for their brothers and sisters, love for souls—in fact, love would be the very thing that would make them oppose a mass move of unity.

"What?! " you say again. "Why that's the most absurd thing I've ever heard! How could love keep them from wanting to get together with everyone else who confesses to love God? You're not going to get me to believe that people with such deep love wouldn't just love to see all the churches and professing Christians come together in unity? Why, what could they love more than that??"

For one thing, they love the truth! Yep, they're pretty attached to it—those true believers can even seem down right stubborn and ornery at times—the way they stick to the truth.

Some people have the craziest ideas—they want to try to do what only God can do. "Let's play Holy Spirit". That's what they seem to be saying. They think that if they can just get everyone to quit arguing about their different doctrinal beliefs, then unity is right around the corner. "Let's just all try and fellowship and talk about those things in the Bible that we all can agree on." There's only one problem with that kind of thinking—isn't the Bible all true? How can we just find the lowest common denominator to which all Christians can agree, and label the rest of God's Word "unessential for unity?"

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