

## Biblical Guidelines for Addressing Controversial Issues

1. Pray for discernment and wisdom.

*If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it (James 1:5 TLB).*

2. Search the Scriptures—and do not proof-text.

*The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right (2 Timothy 3:16 TLB).*

3. Ask the Lord to reveal and forgive your blind spots.

*But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults (Psalm 19:12 NIV).*

4. Overcome your anger.

*Bridle your anger, trash your wrath, cool your pipes—it only makes things worse (Psalm 37:8 MSG).*

5. Determine to be part of the answer—not the problem.

*Stop being mean, bad-tempered, and angry. Quarreling, harsh words, and dislike of others should have no place in your lives (Ephesians 4:31 TLB).*

6. Love don't hate.

*Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst (Luke 6:27 MSG).*

7. Choose your words carefully and prayerfully.

*Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them (Ephesians 4:29 NLT).*

8. Strive for peace and pursue it.

*Try to live in peace with everyone; work hard at it (Psalm 34:14 TLB).*

9. Seek the mind and heart of Christ. WWJD – What would Jesus do?

*And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father (Colossians 3:17 NLT).*

10. Trust the Lord. He is not surprised or unable to work good from all things.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28 NIV ).*

*Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD'S voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all (Proverbs 3:5-7 MSG).*

Compiled by Marlene Bagnull, 1/9/21