

March 7, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

Message Series: GAME PLAN: What's Your Game Plan?

Today's Message: Arguing Properly – Putting A Stone in Someone's Shoe

Matthew 16:18 *"I will build My church and the gates of Hell will not overcome it."*

Last Week:

1. Jesus' Teaching Made People Furious

Luke 4:28 Romans 2:6-11

2. Properly Presenting Christ Matters

2 Timothy 2:23-26

Loving arguments are a virtue—they advance clear thinking, helping us to understand the truth.

3. In A Darkened World We Are to Argue Properly/Lovingly

Acts 17:2-4 Acts 18:4 Acts 28:23-30

John 6:44 Romans 8:14-16

Two Reminders:

1) **You can't** "love someone into the Kingdom", **you can't argue** someone into the Kingdom; without the Holy Spirit working—nothing works.

2) **With The Spirits Work:** Love persuades, arguments convince

Romans 3:9-20

- "There can't just be one way to God"
- "I can't believe in a God who sends people to hell"
- "Science had disproved the supernatural"

Today's Focus: "To Put A Stone In Someone's Shoe"

The Goal: "Since I know I am a part of the process, I want to give him/her something worth thinking about."

Why "Grind Small?"

1) **The Simple Gospel:** is no longer simple—the world is in dramatic change

2) **Objections Abound:** hostility to Christianity dominates our culture: Harris/Dawkins: The Rage Against God

3) **Most Christians:** Will "garden" more than "harvest"

John 4:27-38 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 58 1 Corinthians 16:9

Sad Fact: Most people aren't ready for a "cross conversation" - they have "no furniture"

- Paul saw obstacles—"closed doors" as opportunities to keep asking and keep pressing, not signals

4. Small Steps To Take

◆ **Pray for wisdom** John 15:5, 7, 8

◆ **Ask Yourself:** What is one thing I can Say? What is one question I can ask? What is one single idea I can offer that will get them thinking?

◆ **Refusing to Quit**—Refusing to get Impatient

◆ **Be a good gardener**—then trust God to bring the harvest in His time!