

Being Opinionated Is Not Being Strong

I. Introduction:

A. The word “opinionated” means: “conceitedly assertive and dogmatic in one’s opinions” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

1. To be conceited is to be, “excessively proud of oneself”. Where does that sit with God (**Romans 12:3**)?

2. Being assertive is to have, “a confident and forceful personality”.

a. Certainly, there are times to be such (**Philippians 1:12-14**).

b. However, that is not to be our constant demeanor (**I Peter 5:5**).

3. To be dogmatic is, “inclined to lay down principles as incontrovertibly true”. Where does that sit with God (**I Timothy 6:20-21**)?

B. Christians must fully grasp how little our opinions matter (**I Corinthians 4:6**).

1. Fools think they’re right (**Proverbs 12:15**).

2. Fools will argue with confidence (**Proverbs 14:16**).

II. Body: Does having a big mouth make one strong spiritually (**I Corinthians 4:18-21**)?

A. Jesus is the epitome [perfect example] of strength (**Hebrews 12:1-3**), but had a mindset many would not consider strong (**John 13:1-17**).

1. The faithful are after Jesus’ mindset (**Mark 10:43-45** and **Philippians 2:3-8**).

2. Our freedom in Christ has us other people minded (**Galatians 5:13-14**).

B. The strongest of the faithful are the biggest compromisers (**Romans 15:1-3**).

1. Strong Christians never compromise on the truth (**Psalms 119:127-128**, **Proverbs 23:23**, **Philippians 1:17**, **I Timothy 1:3-7**, and **Jude 1:3-4**).

2. However, strong Christians do not have to have things according to “my way of thinking” (**Romans 12:10** and **I Corinthians 10:23-33**).

C. Avoid being an opinionated fool by being willing to listen (**Proverbs 8:33** and **James 1:19**).

1. You don’t always have to talk (**Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**).

2. Being receptive to hear the right things (**I Thessalonians 2:13**) rather than listening to every thing (**Acts 17:16-21**; cf. **Mark 4:24**).

3. Even in matters of opinion, consider that someone might have a better idea than you and be willing to listen to their counsel (**Proverbs 11:14**).

4. Stop, get this point... BE A REAL LISTENER (**Proverbs 22:17-21**).

D. Some questions of self-examination for us (**II Corinthians 13:5**).

1. Can you recall times wherein you bowed out of a discussion because you didn’t know something or do you talk anyway (**Proverbs 23:9**)?

2. Do you want to argue about things that really don’t matter (**II Timothy 2:23**)?

3. Do you ever learn anything new (**Proverbs 1:5** and **Proverbs 9:9**)?

4. Could you allow someone younger, less experienced, and maybe even ignorant in things you know to teach you something (**Ecclesiastes 4:13**)?

5. Are you a sponge or a faucet (**Proverbs 15:28**)?

III. Conclusion: Be strong IN THE LORD, not in yourself (**Ephesians 6:10**).