

Being Longsuffering AND Uncompromisingly Militant

I. Introduction:

- A. So that we understand our terms in this lesson (**Proverbs 9:10**)...
 - 1. Longsuffering: “patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs” (Strong’s # 3115) as used in **Colossians 3:12**.
 - 2. Uncompromisingly militant: standing fast, being strong in the faith, brave; having a soldier’s mentality (**I Corinthians 16:13** and **Ephesians 6:10-17**). When appropriate, aggressive and sharp (**Titus 1:10-14**).
- B. Some think that being Christ-like is becoming a door mat.
 - 1. Jesus was/is loving (**John 14:21**).
 - 2. But He was not (**John 8:31-47**) and is not a door mat (**Jude 1:14-15**).

II. Body: Longsuffering Does Not Exclude Militancy; Aggressiveness (**Exodus 34:5-7**, **Romans 2:1-11**, and **Revelation 2:14-16**).

- A. Consider the work of an evangelist that includes both being longsuffering AND, at the same time, rebuking, admonishing and exposing faults (**II Timothy 4:1-2**).
 - 1. While there are times to use one skill over the other (**Jude 1:21-23**), being longsuffering doesn’t end being militant (**Jude 1:3-4**).
 - 2. Faithful teachers must have the right balance (**II Timothy 2:14-26**).
- B. Many would argue that it is unloving to stand firm, be militant, etc. Yet, it is the very pattern we see and are to follow (**I Corinthians 11:1** and **I Peter 2:21-22**).
 - 1. John was the forerunner, how did he teach (**Luke 3:3-10**)?
 - 2. Jesus is our loving, longsuffering Savior; what do you see in His method of teaching (**Matthew 9:35-38**, **Matthew 12:38-42**, **Matthew 23:1-36**, **Mark 8:27-33**, **Luke 9:37-42**, and **John 2:13-17**)?
 - 3. The Apostles carried the Gospel to the whole world, what do you see in their INSPIRED methods (**Acts 2:14; 2:36-41**, **Acts 8:18-24**, **Acts 13:4-12**, **Galatians 2:1-5**, **Galatians 2:11-14**, and **Galatians 3:1-3**)?
- C. Being balanced in militancy so that being longsuffering doesn’t turn into becoming a compromiser (**Ephesians 5:1-11**).
 - 1. Knowing when it’s time to stop (**Matthew 7:6** and **Matthew 10:11-15**).
 - 2. Not permitting questions to go too far (**I Timothy 1:3-4**).
 - 3. Stopping contentiousness [wrangling; debating] and schismatic individuals (**Titus 3:9-11**).
 - 4. Keeping others from being affected by error/sin (**Romans 16:17-18**, **I Corinthians 1:10-13**, and **I Corinthians 5:1-8**; cf. **Mark 3:24**).

III. Conclusion: As much as it is possible for you, be both militant and longsuffering (**Philippians 1:17** and **II Timothy 3:10**).