

Study To Be Quiet

I. Introduction: The world promotes a get involved, speak your mind message. They say we should find a cause to fight for. People have started movements for this cause or that cause. It is popular culture to involve oneself in everyone else's affairs.

A. Timothy the evangelist was told to preach the word (**II Timothy 4:2**), but not become entangled with the affairs of this world (**II Timothy 2:1-4**).

1. There is a time to speak and a time to be silent (**Ecclesiastes 3:7**).
2. Even when it comes to sharing the word of God, there are times not to speak (**Acts 13:46**, **II Timothy 2:14**, **II Timothy 2:23**, etc.).

B. Faithful Christians have a standard (**Colossians 3:16-17** and **II Timothy 3:16-17**). The world does not!

1. Example: We approach abortion by showing life begins at conception (**Job 3:1-3**) and that the taking of innocent life is wrong (**Proverbs 6:16-19**). The world has no standard to have this discussion and thus they change often from one saying to another (cf. **Proverbs 24:21**).
2. Example: We know God created male and female (**Matthew 19:4**), but the world cannot even define sexes all of a sudden.
3. Therefore, those examples and many others show us that the discussion cannot happen with those who do not use God's word as THE standard (i.e. **Mark 11:27-33**).

II. Body: I Thessalonians 4:11-12

A. Defining some of the terms:

1. Study: "To be fond of honor, i.e. emulous (eager or earnest to do something): — labour, strive, study... (Strong's # 5389). The two other times this word is used it is translated "strived" (**Romans 15:20**) and "labour" (**II Corinthians 5:9**).
2. Quiet: "To keep still (intransitively), i.e. refrain from labor, meddlesomeness or speech: — cease, hold peace, be quiet, rest..." (Strong's # 2270). Translated other places as "held their peace" (**Luke 14:4** and **Acts 11:18**), "rested" (**Luke 23:56**), and "ceased saying" (**Acts 21:14**). Consider: **Psalms 4:4; 46:10**
3. Business: "Pertaining to self, i.e. one's own; by implication, private or separate: — x his acquaintance, when they were alone, apart, aside, due, his (own, proper, several), home, (her, our, thine, your) own (business), private(-ly), proper, severally, their (own)." Most often translated "his own" (i.e. **Matthew 9:1**).
4. With those terms being understood, the main point is to strive to mind your own affairs and not to meddle in the affairs of others. In the second letter, we see the problem Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus were addressing (**II Thessalonians 3:6-12**).
5. Watch out for distractions (**Mark 4:19**).

- B. When we live aright we are showing a pattern of godliness (**Titus 2:7-8**).
1. Being an example of godly living does not require a megaphone (**I Peter 3:1-4**).
 2. As we read, Paul told the Thessalonians he was an example to them by his laboring (**II Thessalonians 3:9**).
 3. The power of example even from teachers of the Gospel is sometimes greater than words being spoken (**I Timothy 4:12**).
- C. A people of peace and good conduct (**I Peter 3:8-16**).
1. You're taking care of your affairs so that you are not lacking (**Proverbs 13:11; 14:23**).
 2. Instead of being caught up in the turmoil of the world, you are at peace and able to live holy and peaceably (**Romans 12:17-21** and **Hebrews 12:14**).
 3. What state does the Lord expect to find us in at His coming (**II Peter 3:14**)?

III. Conclusion: **Psalms 131:1-3**