



Weekly Devotion

Shedding Our Argumentative Spirit

"What causes fights among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"
Romans 12:18

Wouldn't it be great if we could say that no one likes to argue? But that's like wishing on a star. Some like to argue because they always want to be right, and their identity is defined by never being wrong. Some make a game out of arguing where winning takes priority over intimacy and a better relationship. But most of us find ourselves occasionally wrapped up in disagreements where our emotions run high, and an argument is born out of the emotional conflict.

What if arguments didn't exist? Those who are enflamed emotions crop up and do more harm than good. How would that reflect on our need to pursue something that doesn't even exist -- knowing that we are the ones contributing our internal need to satisfy our selfishness instead of communicating from a place of love, harmony, and clarity that considers the other more important than ourselves? -- What a concept that would be.

The reality is that while arguments seem to take place all over the place, you could search the entire world with a magnifying glass and never find one. They don't exist... anywhere. They can't

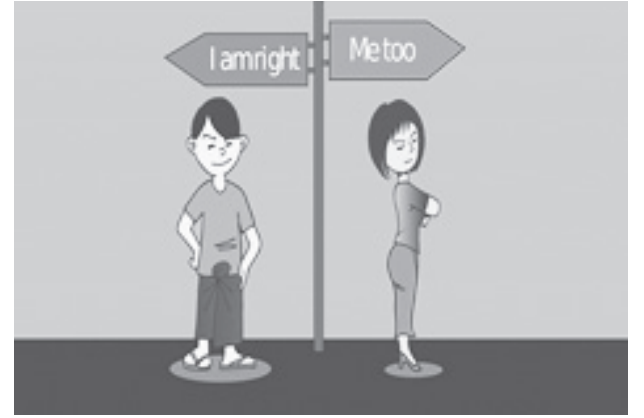
be found by chance or in situations; they exist inside our hearts and are a sign of selfishness, anger, bitterness, and immaturity. They serve as an indicator of our spiritual condition. Another way to say it is that arguments aren't things but predispositions of our nature, not activities but the condition of our heart and mind. If we were to change our nature, an emotional disagreement could change into a caring conversation if we removed our contentious spirit from our hearts. If we prepare our heart to drive the language and content of our responses then the outcome is more statements that build up rather than tear down, that edify rather than destroy.

When we are aligned with God's Spirit, we can wash away our immaturities and emotional instabilities allowing us to relate with a calming and caring heart, becoming a tool for healing and guidance, not judgment, insecurity, and destruction. Potential arguments are opportunities to glorify God with restraint, self-control, and love.

While there is no doubt that sometimes we are going to lose our cool, we can realize that arguments, in and of themselves, are not bad. We can use them as pointers to the emotional and relational inadequacies that we need to act on as well as life issues we need to resolve. They identi-

fy things that we have buried inside ourselves so that we can address them before they build into yet another relational disconnect. A good goal for any Christian is to be free of a contentious spirit and from being easily offended. James 1:19 teaches us that "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger." Using a Godly approach before engaging will provide a space where honesty is revealed, and conflict is resolved. You can be a source of healing for issues that arise today.

Dennis Dean
 Pleasant Grove Baptist Church



"Arguments don't manifest from the outside in, but the inside out"

Catahoula Parish Church Directory

Aimwell Baptist Church 3592 Webb Camp Rd, Aimwell, LA 71401 (318) 992-6031	First Baptist Harrisonburg 600 Bushley St, Harrisonburg, LA 71340 (318) 744-5295	Harrisonburg, LA (318) 744-5687	Moss Grove Baptist Church 247 Black River Road Jonesville, LA 71343	193 Church Rd, Jonesville, LA 71343	St. Peter Baptist Church 1835 Peachland Ln, Jonesville, LA (318) 339-6339
Anointed Hands Ministry 907 Willow St. Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 623-6404	First Baptist Jonesville 103 Pond St. Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-9062	Harrisonburg United Methodist Church Located at foot of bridge (318) 339-8356	Mt Hermon Baptist Church 1319 Hwy 28, Jonesville, LA 71343-9679 (318) 339-8964	Patton Baptist Church 115 Patton Church Rd, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 452-6605	Sunny Side Church 6569 Hwy 15 Clayton, LA 71326 318-625-2053
Berean Reformed Baptist 210 Front St., Jonesville, LA 71343 318-339-8764	First Baptist Church 303 Chisum, Sicily Island, LA 71368 (318) 389-5733	Jonesville Church of God 152 Hwy3037, Jonesville, LA (318) 339-7807	Mt. Sinai Baptist Church 321 Willow Lake Road P.O. Box 725 Jonesville, LA 71343	Pine Hill Baptist Church 3479 Hwy 913, Sicily Island, LA 71368	The Pentecostals of J'ville 102 Lilly Street, Jonesville, LA 318-452-3287
Bethel Assembly of God 507 Bushley St, Harrisonburg, LA 73140 (318) 744-1004	First Penecostal Church 601 First St, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 338-7389	Lake Lilly Baptist Church 1902 Hwy 923, Jonesville, LA 71343-8734 (318) 339-8959	New Era Baptist Church 11698 Hwy 129, Monterey, LA 71354-4638 (318) 678-3842	Pisgah Baptist Church 11432 Hwy 8, Manifest, LA 71343 (318) 339-6218	Trinity Presbyterian Church 401 3rd St Jonesville, LA (318) 339-7119
Bird's Creek Baptist Church 8433 Hwy 8, Harrisonburg, LA 71340 318-744-0992	First United Methodist 111 Short St, Jonesville, LA (225)276-5290	Larto Baptist Church 107 Hwy 3102, Jonesville, LA 71343-9207 (318) 339-8345	New Life in Christ 705 Newman St, Sicily Island, LA (318) 389-0010	Pleasant Grove Baptist 385 Hwy 126, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-8347	United Pentecostal Church 100 Airport Rd, Jonesville, LA (318) 339-7390
Breadcrumb Baptist Mission 200 Front Street, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-8713	Good Road Pentecostal 112 Good Road, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-7343	Larto Petcostal Church 125 Sanders Loop Rd. Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-9497	New Life Pentecostal Church of Manifest 3190 Posey Web Camp Rd, Jonesville, LA (318) 339-8448	Prosperity Baptist Church 125 Prosperity Road, Jonesville, LA 71343	Utility Baptist Church 2230 Hwy 84, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-8734
Crossway Family Worship 227 Hudson Lane, Jonesville, LA 318-403-1546	Grace Baptist Church 2900 4th St Jonesville, LA 71343-2405 (318) 339-8429	Liberty Worship Center 2307 Fourth Street, Jonesville, LA (318) 339-4598	New Ouachita Baptist 226 New Ouachita Road, Enter- prise,71425 (318) 744-5962	Ridgecrest Baptist Church 502 Ferriday Dr, Ridgecrest, LA 71334 (318) 757-4076	Wallace Ridge Baptist Church 14566 Hwy 124, Jonesville, LA 71343-1532 (318) 339-9946
Community Pentecostal 12722 Hwy 8 Jonesville, LA 71343	Greater St. Mary Baptist 616 Pollard Ave., Jonesville, LA 71343 318-339-7212	Lismore Baptist Church 5146 Hwy 565, Jonesville, LA 71343-5369 (318) 386-2395	Norris Hill Baptist Church 1018 Hwy 3148, Sicily Island, LA 71368	Rosefield Baptist Church 352 Hwy 124, Olla, LA 71465	Wallace Ridge Pentecostal Church, 14565 Hwy 124, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-8550
Dunbarton Baptist Church 4437 Hwy 566, Ferriday, LA 71334 (318) 757-4371	Hall Grove Baptist Calhoun Bend Monterey, LA 71354 318-403-1600	Mayna Church of God 2624 Hwy 124, Jonesville, LA 318-339-8716	Oak Grove Baptist Church 14582 Hwy 8, Jonesville, LA 71343	Sandy Lake Pentecostal 1676 Hwy 126, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-8159	Word of Faith Christian Cnt 1300 Fourth Street Jonesville, LA
Evangeline Baptist Church 14521 Hwy 84, Wildsville, LA 71343 (318) 435-8549	Harrisonburg Christian 300 Monroe St Harrisonburg, LA (318) 744-1524	Meyers Bend Pentecostal 1366 Meyers Bend Rd, Jonesville, LA 318-308-9836	Oak Grove Free Methodist 3578 Hwy 923, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-8333	St Gerard's Catholic Church 303 Willow St, Jonesville, LA (318) 339-6143	Attend the Church of your Choice
Faith Baptist Church 170 Jesse Jr Rd, Clayton, LA 71326-9613 (318) 389-5303	H'burg First United Pentecostal Church 741 Bushley St,	Monterey First Baptist 5555 HWY 129, Monterey, LA 71354 (318)386-2821	Old Daughters Baptist 171 Mill Rd., Wildsville, LA (318) 339-8985	St. Mark Baptist Church 900 Johnson Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	
			Parhams Baptist Church		

CC Bar CC Contractors, Inc.
 Dirt Work And Drainage Structures
Bar CC Land & Cattle, Inc.
 Theresa F. Carpenter (318) 452-0799 (Mobile)
 Dewitt L. Carpenter (318) 461-4077 (Mobile)
 (318) 339-8339 (Home)

JONESVILLE AUTO SUPPLY
 AUTO & AG PARTS
 STEVEN TAYLOR JUSTIN TAYLOR
 HAYDEN TAYLOR AMY TAYLOR
BUMPER TO BUMPER
 Auto Parts Specialists
 1502 FOURTH ST. JONESVILLE, LA 71343
 318-339-1556 318-339-1558 Fax
 E-Mail: jas_1160@yahoo.com

Four Rivers INSURANCE
 Melissa Davis, Agent
 P.O. Box 458 Office (318) 339-7114
 1203 Fourth Street Fax (318) 339-9578
 Jonesville, LA 71343 Home (318) 339-9996
 fourriversins@bellsouth.net

White's Mobile Homes, Inc.
 2107 Fourth St. Hwy. 8
 Jonesville, LA 71343
 Office: 318-339-8134
 Fax: 318-339-6889

Broyhill GE Sears LA-Z-BOY
Furniture Mart NORTHEAST
 615 FOURTH ST. JONESVILLE, LA 71343 BUS. PHONE 318-339-7581
 Quality, Service, & Dependability



BRAD'S BARBERSHOP AND GUN SALES
 1509 Fourth Street Jonesville, LA 71343 Phone: 318-339-7796 Cell: 318-403-0322

White's "T&J" OILFIELD SUPPLY
 In Service
 Specializing In Down Hole-Rod Pumps, Jet Pumps, PCP Pumps & All Surface Equipment
 (318)339-6601-Jonesville
 (601)304-4211-Natchez
 RANDY WHITE - OWNER

To sponsor the
 Church Page please
 call the
 News Booster Office
318-339-7242