

When To Defend Others And When Not To (Two Part Study)

(appropriate for High Schoolers and older)

Michael R. Daily, February 2023

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

In the Bible there are times when God tells us to defend other people and there are times when we are told not to. Sometimes we don't feel like defending others even though God wants us to. There are also times when we feel strongly that we should defend others but God tells us not to. So, we need to understand what God says on this issue and not just depend on our feelings or we will end up doing the wrong thing. This is what we will look at tonight - when to defend others and when not to.

When To Defend Others

When I was working in management positions I had a certain amount of authority over people. This gave me the right and the ability to reward people and punish people within certain limitations. But one of the things I learned as a manager is that I can reward people if they do things I want, and I can punish people if they don't, but what I can't do is, I can't actually make anybody do anything.

For me this is one of the most frustrating things about life on Earth. Most of the time, I feel like I know what the right thing for people to do is. But I can't make them make wise decisions, and I can't make them choose wise behaviors. The things that I can do seem pretty small compared to what I would like to do. Then it becomes tempting to just not do anything. But the small things we can do are very important.

I Thessalonians 5:14-15

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Weak: *lacking strength, not able to resist or withstand attack, lacking skill or proficiency*

Unruly: *contrary, defiant, in compliant, insubordinate, rebellious, disobedient, wayward*

Fainthearted: *feeling or showing a lack of courage*

Admonish: *to remind someone of their duties or obligations, to express concerned warning or disapproval of.*

I would like to make the rebellious and unruly stop being unruly but I can't. What I can do is admonish or warn them. It doesn't seem like enough, but God says that's what He wants us to do – and its important. I want to make the fainthearted courageous but I can't. God says to encourage them. It doesn't seem like much, but its important. I'd like to make the weak strong but I can't. What I can do is help them. And that's important, even if it doesn't seem like it.

Being weak means, "not able to resist or withstand attack". This is when God wants us to defend others – when they are helpless to defend themselves from or to withstand an attack of some sort. We will look at a number of different examples where this might happen.

1) Protecting those who are so weak they can't speak for themselves

Proverbs 31:8-9

Open your mouth for the mute, For the rights of all the unfortunate. ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Defend: *to drive danger or attack away from*

What are some examples of people who are so weak they can't speak for themselves? Unborn babies, the elderly, children, disabled, those who are outnumbered by those who threaten them, etc. Because these people are so weak they often endure danger and attacks silently or quietly. They may be happening without a lot of noise. So, you will need to be diligent and observant to identify it. By the way, the best way to defend against an attack is to prevent it.

The “smoke-filled” room

This term isn't used much anymore but it refers to people in a room somewhere who are discussing things and making decisions that are going to affect other people who are not in the room while the decision is being made. There are many times in life when you will be “in the room” while this is happening. You will hear the discussions and you will sense that things are heading toward a decision that is going to unfairly hurt people who are not represented in the room. As a result, their voices are effectively mute. You may want to change the decision to something completely different but you may not always be able to persuade the rest of the people to agree to everything you think is best. Nevertheless, it's important to do something rather than nothing. Speak for those not in the room and try to mitigate any issues or soften the decision so that it reduces the damage to these other people. It may seem like a lot less than what you wanted to do, but it still makes a big difference.

One small way we can prevent attacks is by our personal example

Early in my career I was working as an engineer. The technicians had desks in the lab and the engineers would come into the lab to work with them. One day all the technicians and most of the engineers in my group were standing around talking and I joined them. One of the technicians was talking about when he was in the Navy on shore leave and a group of them were in a bar drinking. They found out that a man in the bar was gay so they took him out of the bar and beat him up – and everyone laughed, except me. I didn't laugh, I didn't smile. I didn't say anything. I was horrified but I didn't show it. I just quietly left the group and walked back to my office. A few minutes later one of the men came to my office and asked if anything was wrong. I smiled and said, “I'm a Christian and beating people up is not something God is pleased with, regardless of who they are or what they do”. We talked a little more about it but it became clear to everyone in my group that I did not support joking about hurting people. Why? Because I was a Christian. Did this make any difference. It actually did. I never heard this type of talking considered acceptable again by the group. This is a small thing but it can make a difference. If we don't do anything, we are effectively approving the actions of the group.

Romans 14:22

The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

But what if you actually came across a situation where a group was beating someone up? What should you do? This brings up the issue of protecting others from physical danger.

2) Protecting others from physical danger

When it comes to preventing or dealing with a physical attack on someone we don't know, the Bible authorizes action by government officials, not individuals.

Romans 13:3-4

For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

The term, “it does not bear the sword for nothing” means that God has given government officials the authority to use physical force, up to and including deadly force, against those who practice evil. God has also approved the use of deadly force by the government of a nation in defending that nation from attack.

II Samuel 23:8-10

These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite, chief of the captains, he was *called* Adino the Eznite, because of eight hundred slain *by him* at one time; ⁹and after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there to battle and the men of Israel had withdrawn. ¹⁰He arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary and clung to the sword, and the Lord brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to strip *the slain*.

Note: the Bible condemns murder as a sin but allows for killing in other circumstances such as the execution of certain criminals (**Gen 9:6, Ex 21:12-29, Num 35:17-31**) and killing while defending your nation (**I Chronicles 19:16-19**), family (**Genesis 14:13-16**), or innocent people who are under attack (**II Samuel 23:8-12**). Although most translations of the Bible translate the Sixth Commandment (**Exodus 20:13**) correctly along the lines of “do not murder” there are a few that mistranslate the commandment as “do not kill”. The word used here is *rasah* which actually does mean “murder” and when *rasah* is used in other parts of the Bible (ex: **Numbers 35**) it is translated as “murder” or “murderer” with the Sixth Commandment being the only place it is sometimes incorrectly translated as “kill”. The dictionary definitions of murder and kill are: **murder** - *the crime of unlawfully killing a person especially with premeditated intent*, **kill** - *to cause the death of*.

Let’s go back to the situation where an individual is under physical attack by some other person or group. When we don’t know the people involved in the physical attack, we don’t always understand what is going on. The attackers may be committing a crime or maybe the victim was a criminal caught in the act of a crime. Because we don’t know the people or the situation we need to be more careful.

Proverbs 26:17

Like one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him.

A few years ago, I was talking to a police captain about this type of situation. What if you see people fighting or someone’s purse being grabbed in the grocery store parking lot? He said that whatever you do, do not get physically involved in it. Why? Because, if you don’t know the people, you may not really know what is going on. You may think you know but the situation could be very different from what you are thinking it is. You could also be severely injured or killed. Also, the victim could sue you, the criminal could sue you, or they could both sue you! Why? Because they can. Instead, call the police or a security guard if one is close by.

When I was on a mission trip to Africa we were in a car driving on the highway. In the country we were in people walk along the side of the road and are very close to the vehicles as they speed by. An 18-wheel truck 50 yards in front of us started weaving back and forth for some reason. A woman was walking along the side of the highway carrying a baby. As the 18-wheeler passed her it weaved in her direction just enough that the truck’s side mirror hit the woman in the back of the head at 50 miles per hour. She and the baby went down and the truck kept on driving. We stopped our car close by. My initial reaction was to go to the woman but the missionary I was with stopped me and told me to get back in the car with him. The local pastor that was driving us went to take care of her while we stayed in the car. As outsiders to the country, there was some risk, in the confusion of the moment, that people might not understand what happened or might even think we were the cause of the accident. Better to let the local authorities take care of things.

What if you live in a society where crime is not being effectively prevented or addressed by the government? Should we take up arms? God does not give us that authority, He has given that to the government, the police. So, the Biblical answer to solving a crime problem is to hire more police.

If your family members are under attack then you should do what you can to protect them.

Exodus 22:2

If the thief is caught while breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account.

If someone breaks into your house at night and your family is there, then physical intervention is appropriate. If the altercation results in the death of the criminal you have not done anything wrong, as far as God is concerned. I don’t know what the police will say or what the criminal’s family will do, but God is OK with it.

Key Point: *Physical intervention is appropriate if you believe it is worth the loss of your life or your financial ruin. Otherwise, call the police or other nearby authorities.*

(Genesis 14:14-16)

When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ¹⁶ He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.

Note: examples of people risking their lives to help others are the Hebrew midwives who disobeyed Pharaoh (**Exodus 1:15-21**) and Rahab who risked her life to protect the spies of Israel (**Joshua 2:3-7**).

3) Protecting widows and orphans

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Distress: *pain or suffering affecting the body or the mind, a state of danger or desperate need*

We don't talk about it much but the Bible, including the New Testament, has a lot to say about widows.

Note: the Bible devotes half a chapter of I Timothy to the doctrine of taking care of widows (**I Timothy 5:3-16**)

Statistics on Widowhood (<http://peaceloveandgrief.com/?tag=widow-statistics>)

In general, men do not live as long as women. So, most women will spend part of their lives as widows. "death of a spouse" is the #1 stressor on the stress index scale and is one of life's most devastating events. 60% of those who lose a spouse will experience a serious illness within 12 months.

The average age of widowhood is 55.

Widows lose 75% of their support base when their spouse dies, after 4 months the remaining support fades.

Most widows lose touch with their in-laws within a year of a loss.

Half of all women over age 65 in the US are widows and about 70% of these women live alone.

The rate of poverty among elderly widows is four times higher than elderly married women.

Scamming and manipulation are common practice toward the widowed, and it always has been.

Luke 20:45-47

And while all the people were listening, He said to the disciples, ⁴⁶ "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, ⁴⁷ who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."

This is an interesting passage. Jesus is describing the things that the community and religious leaders love. They love banquets and honors and nice clothes and respectful greetings. And then there is one more thing He throws in the list that is completely out of place – they devour widows' houses.

For most widows their house represents most of their wealth. These people were scamming widows out of their houses and money. And these were not strangers, these were respected people in the community that the widow knew. Something changes when you become a widow. People you used to be able to trust before widowhood may no longer be that way.

One role of the husband is to protect their wife and children. Husbands do this in many ways. Things as simple as taking care of maintenance on the cars and house, or taking care of bills or taxes or other things. When the husband dies, the things he was doing to protect and take care of his family are now gaps and vulnerabilities and can be a source of anxiety for the widow. By taking time to visit with widows you not only help alleviate some of the loneliness they are experiencing, but you will also pick up indicators of gaps or vulnerabilities that are not being addressed, or indicators that someone is positioning to take advantage of them in some way. You won't always be able to help, but occasionally you will detect a gap or problem that would be easy for you to help with. Even small things can make a big difference in reducing their anxiety or vulnerability.

For example, if while visiting with a widow you get indications that a particular person is spending more time around them and it is someone you know, you can thank them and let them know how much the widow enjoys their visits. If the person is trying to help them, they will appreciate your recognition. But if their intentions are evil, they now know that you are aware of them and are watching. As a result, they most likely will leave the widow alone.

END OF PART 1 / START OF PART 2

4) Protecting others while dating

In dating situations God expects Christians to protect each other from sensuality (touching and kissing).

Romans 13:13-14

Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

God's standard is not only to avoid sexual promiscuity but also sensuality (kissing and touching). Why is this so important? Because fidelity in marriage does not start when you get married – it starts right now!

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage bed is to be undefiled*; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Guys, whatever you are doing to that girl you are doing to someone's future wife. Do you want someone to do that to your wife? Girls, whatever you are doing to that guy you are doing to someone's future husband. Do you want someone to do that to your husband?

I Thessalonians 4:3-6

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the avenger* in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*.

defraud: *to deprive of something by deception or to induce someone to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right*

Let's not defraud each other out of joy in our future marriages, but rather let's protect each other from the dangers of sensuality (i.e. kissing and touching).

(II Timothy 2:22)

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

What are God's standards regarding kissing and touching while dating? They can be found in I Tim 5:1-2.

I Timothy 5:1-2

Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but *rather* appeal to *him* as a father, to the younger men as brothers, ² the older women as mothers, *and* the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Until you are married to them, that guy/girl is your brother/sister. Before you do anything physical ask yourself, "Is this something I would do with my sister, my brother?" For example, would I hold my sister's hand? (sure). Would I kiss my sister on the cheek? (yes). Would I kiss my sister on the lips? (probably not, maybe a quick peck). Would I give my sister a long, strong hug (no, maybe a quick, light one). Would I give my sister a long passionate kiss on the lips? (definitely not).

5) Protecting others from deception

Whenever we are in a group of people, satan wants us to think that we are the only Christians that are there in the group. But what I have found is that there are almost always other Christians in the group. In fact, I can't remember a time when there were not other Christians around. They may not have been strong in the faith or in their walk with God but they were Christians, none the less.

From time to time someone will try to influence the group to believe things about God or the Bible that are not true. When that happens, it is our job to say something and to refute them.

Titus 1:9

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

refute: *to prove wrong by argument or evidence, show to be false*

My employer sent me to a 3 day class. The class had about 40 people from my company in it from all levels of the company. The instructor was from an outside training company. For some reason, the instructor went off on a tangent and started talking about, "Who is to say that something is right or wrong. One person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter". I immediately recognized this as a common argument used by atheists. As he continued to expand on his idea, it became clear he wanted to bring people to the point of agreeing that it is impossible for anyone to say anything is wrong or right. At that point I stated that there are, in fact, things that are right and things that are wrong. When he pressed me as to why, I said, "Because God exists and He decides what is right and what is wrong."

Although he laughed at the idea, about 30% of the class members spoke up and agreed with me. At that point he dropped it and went back to teaching the class. I don't think the instructor fared well when we filled out our class evaluation forms because I never saw him teach a class for that company again! But if I had not said something, he would have continued his argument, most likely convinced some of the people it was correct, and would have been allowed to keep his job and continue teaching these lies to future classes of students.

When Not To Defend Others

1) Don't protect people from the gospel

You go on a mission trip. While you are there you help build buildings and plant crops. You work with the teens your age who know English and enjoy being around an American. One day you get the idea that God wants you to share the gospel with the teens so you gather them around and share the Bridge Illustration. One young man, Sameer, is interested. After you are finished he comes over to talk with you and ask more questions. He is astonished to learn that God (Jesus) died for him and can't believe God would do that for him.

You tell him, "Sameer, would you like to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord?" He responds, "I would but I need some time to think about it". You are disappointed but you are glad he is thinking about it so you start praying for him. A few days later you are walking through the village and you see Sameer, but he is acting strangely. He is giving away his possessions.

"Sameer, are you OK?" He smiles and says, "Yes, I have become a Christian". "That's wonderful. I'm so glad you did. But why are you giving away your possessions?" "I was raised a Muslim. You are only an infidel, but I am an apostate. Once my father and brothers find out I am a Christian they will kill me".

Two days later Sameer's blood soaked body is found by the side of the road filled with knife wounds. My question to you is, "Will you go back there on another mission trip? If you do, will you share the gospel again? Missionaries to certain countries know that converting someone to Christianity there will result in the new Christian's death for being an apostate but they share the gospel anyway. We are to obey God and trust Him for the results, even if it means death.

Matthew 10:28

Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

John 16:1-2

These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. ²They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.

2) Do not defend others opinions

Disagreeing with someone's opinions or beliefs is not equivalent to harming them. Therefore, if people are having a difference of opinion we are under no obligation to join in or defend one of them.

Luke 12:13-14

Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the *family* inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?"

This mistake can often be found happening in social media. Much of effective human communication is non-verbal, face-to-face interaction with another person, but much of this is lost on social media. The result is that often people end up expressing hatred for other people. I have also seen people who will change what they say they believe so that they can avoid being hated – but that is not persuasion. Better to have a discussion face-to-face.

The following are some verses to think about before engaging in disagreements on social media:

Proverbs 26:17

Like one who takes a dog by the ears Is he who passes by *and* meddles with strife not belonging to him.

Proverbs 20:3

Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel.

Proverbs 10:19

When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Titus 3:2

to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

3) Don't protect people who refuse to work

II Thessalonians 3:6-15

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; ⁹ not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. ¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. ¹⁵ Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

There is a big difference between people who want to work but can't, and people who choose to not work. Sometimes we don't take the time to identify the difference. We protect the person by saying that they are out of work and need our help. Maybe, maybe not. It depends on why they are out of work.

4) Don't protect people who cause unmerited dissention

Titus 3:10-11

Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, ¹¹ knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

factious: *a person or thing that causes dissention or the forming of factions*

Jude 1:17-19

But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁸ that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." ¹⁹ **These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.**

The failure mode that can occur in these situations is that a church leader may be pressured to "restore unity" by compromising with those who are being doctrinally divisive. But unity is not our top priority, obedience to Christ is.

We can compromise on style and implementation details but not on core doctrine. If we try to compromise on core doctrinal issues the people not following the Bible will stay in the church and continue to cause disruption.

The Bible suggests a different approach where the spiritual leader provides a clear doctrinal basis for the church's position on something and the factions in the church that are approved (in agreement with the Bible) then become evident.

I Corinthians 11:18-19

For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

II Timothy 4:1-2

I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

What will then happen is the factions that are in disagreement will have to make a decision either to repent (change their mind) or leave that church.

The Bible tells us to not tolerate these types of people, avoid them, and even remove them from the church, if possible! Instead, some people will claim that unity is to be our top priority (rather than obedience to Christ and correct doctrine) and will protect these people when they should not.

Some will even go so far as to attack the Christians who are pointing out the false doctrine and sinful behaviors and claim that they are the ones who are unloving and causing the division. Division is not the problem. The problem is tolerating those who promote false doctrine and sinful living within the church.

Revelation 2:1-3

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ² 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; ³ and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

Revelation 2:18-20

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: 19 ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

II Timothy 3:1-5

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

I Corinthians 5:9-13

I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *When To Defend Others And When Not To*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 5:14-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 31:8-9, Romans 14:22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 13:3-4, Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12-29, Numbers 35:17-31*

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *When To Defend Others And When Not To*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Samuel 23:8-12, I Chronicles 19:16-19, Genesis 14:13-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 22:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 1:15-21, Joshua 2:3-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *When To Defend Others And When Not To*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *James 1:27, I Timothy 5:3-16, Luke 20:45-47*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 13:13-14, Hebrews 13:4, I Thessalonians 4:3-6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:22, I Timothy 5:1-2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *When To Defend Others And When Not To*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Titus 1:9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 10:28, John 16:1-2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 12:13-14, Proverbs 26:17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *When To Defend Others And When Not To*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 20:3, Proverbs 10:19, Titus 3:2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Thessalonians 3:6-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Titus 3:10-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *When To Defend Others And When Not To*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jude 1:17-19, I Corinthians 11:18-19, II Timothy 4:1-2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 2:1-3, Revelation 2:18-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 3:1-5, I Corinthians 5:9-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?