

# Shadrach Youth Ministry

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## Don't Argue!! By Oswald Chambers

"Paul said to Timothy another thing, 'Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers' (2 Tim. 2:14). And again, 'Shun profane and idle babblings for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer' (vv. 16-17). And again, 'Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife' (v. 23). Don't Argue! Don't enter into controversy at any price. Paul told Timothy not to enter into controversy at any price, and Paul was the archcontroversialist himself! Paul spent most of his days in controversy, and yet he told Timothy not to argue! But have you read Paul's method of controversy? Paul put himself with amazing courtesy and amazing insight and amazing tenderness into the place of the person he was disputing with. The reason he tells me not to argue, and the reason he tells you not to argue, is that we argue from our own point of view. We argue not for truth's sake, we argue to prove we're right. God grant that we may learn to take heed lest we get [carried away with] arguing. Is there some worker for God likely to be twisted and turned aside by battling for the faith?"

'Heal me,' prays Augustine, again and again, 'of this lust of mine of always vindicating myself.'

Take heed, fix your mind, never be wheedled into controversy. Let the Spirit of God controvert. One of my greatest snares ever since I became a Christian is this very thing. I know what it means, I know the galling humiliation and agony in days that have gone by of wanting to argue the point out, and I know, possibly better than any of you, the inwardness of the point that the apostle Paul is driving at with Timothy - 'Don't do it, Timothy; stop, you will damage your own soul, you will hinder the truth of God, you will bruise the souls you talk to.' Have you learned this, Christian worker, that when people begin to discuss the baptism with the Holy Spirit it is time you got out of the way? They have a controversy with the Holy Spirit, not with you. Sanctification is not a human term; it is God's: the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not a human conception, it is God's, and when people begin to argue on these matters, remember, worker for God, it is the Holy Spirit they are arguing with, the Word of God they are haggling about. God grant we may not hinder those who are battling their way slowly into the light." ( Workmen of God, pgs. 228 - 230 (This article is intended to expose the harm of *arguing*. It is not intended to stifle pure hearted discussion that is open-minded and willing to learn. The Holy Spirit can help us know the intentions of our hearts.)

### Report on "Emergent Church"

What a powerful message is presented in the "Emergent Church" sermon given by Eric Ludy and Ben Davenport! I really hadn't heard a whole lot about the subject, except that those in the Emergent Church believed truth was individually defined. This opening of the curtains to the way things are in our culture and in this particular arena was an eye-opener for me.

The speakers highlighted the fact that the Emergent Church and its leaders are using the plans of devils – this is shown in the works published by the leaders, as well as the very tactics used in reaching the unsatisfied, fed-up and questioning young people at large, but also the older and younger generations. The speakers gave me a better understanding of the different strategies being used, so I can know how to identify them and maybe even help someone who is struggling with questions about the Emergent Church. The deception is great, and it was wonderful to have someone point it out for what it is. I recommend this message strongly for any who haven't yet heard it. –Morgan Litchfield

Assignments Due: Oct. 8, 2008

#### Veteran Youth:

- Read the new chapter in A Voice in the Wilderness or listen to "Emergent Church"
- Servanthood and Witnessing Reports
- Memorize: Psalm 103:1-7
- Memorize Hymn: "Arise, My Soul, Arise"

#### First Year Youth:

- Memorize: Psalm 103:1-7
- Memorize Hymn: "Arise, My Soul, Arise"
- Shadrach Manual Report #1: Dedication
- Why Shadrach Report

**Update on Danielle Underwood:** The Holy Spirit led Danielle to Muskegon, MI recently. She has been learning to die to self in a new way – which she is very thankful for! To help pay off school debts, she has been blessed with 3 jobs! Yet she still makes it to church! Danielle is believing that she is to return to school and finish her degree. She is presently enjoying Wycliffe events (her major has been linguistics), and is seeking God's face about any future in this ministry.

## He/She is BETTER Than Me!

*I am fearfully and wonderfully made... Ps. 139:14*

“Why do people like her more than me? Is there something wrong with me?” “Why is he so good at sports and I’m not? It’s not fair!”

How can a loving God make some youth so appealing to their peers...and others just don’t seem to have what it takes to be in the ‘in crowd’? I am not only talking about being popular in a public school type of setting. I’m also talking about a spiritual setting – there simply are those who are more appealing to the group than others. It can be a painful and soul searching position. To many youth, it begins a warped process of trying to improve themselves or to mimic those who seem to have it together.

I believe the problem lies within leaning on man’s perspective, not God’s. As usual, the answer lies in the Word of God! When the Bible says you are fearfully and wonderfully made, does it mean even you? Does it mean the handicapped person in the wheelchair? Does it mean the one who has no natural social skills? Does it mean you are wonderfully made if your body is not slim and shapely/muscular? Of course it does. The key is in changing our perspective to God’s perspective. He knows what is ‘wonderful’ and what is valuable. He knows all and sees all and has put WONDERFUL and beautiful things in each of us. I propose that God even has a different perspective on what defines outward beauty. He intentionally made you the way you are – inside and out! There ARE things Jesus has put in you that He admires and loves, which He knows are of great value. When the Bible says, “I knit you together in your mother’s womb”, it indicates a ‘stitch-by-stitch’ creation. Each part of you crafted with care, and a masterpiece of His love.

If you are one who has hidden-to-you gifts, rejoice! This may be the most sacred gift that God has given you – you don’t have your own strengths to lean on – and you must learn to rely upon Jesus alone for your value and your purpose. To find what you were born for, you are forced early on to die to pride and self-reliance. Isn’t that what is most wounded anyway when we aren’t ‘appreciated’ by others as our friends might be? Our pride. Give it all up. Pride just makes us less attractive anyway! In time, He will reveal what treasures He has put in you, but for now it is best for you not to know and not to worry about. He sees the pain you are going through, yet He is watching to see if you will use that pain for the purpose intended.

Those of you who have the attractiveness/gifts that are appealing in this world must learn the same lesson – to not lean on your own strengths but on Jesus alone. However, it is more difficult for those of you who are intelligent and popular to become fully aware of the need. God has ways of trying to get our attention, and if He does, you will not value the same things for the same reasons any more. Be aware that God uses the most those who are fully surrendered...not those who are the most gifted. The nominal church world can easily use those who are gifted, but the Kingdom’s strength lies in those who are fully surrendered – with or without ‘great’ gifts. Your fruitfulness in the Kingdom will take on a new freshness, abundance and sweetness when you stop your own efforts.

It isn’t the most important thing to God whether the culture thinks you have too big of a nose or a stutter or a dysfunctional body or social stiffness. What matters the most – and what He uses the most – is a heart of full surrender. Are you willing to make *His* priorities YOUR priority? Thank the Lord now for how He’s made you. It takes faith!

Can you see this will affect how you treat other ‘treasures’ in the Kingdom as well? When we see others through God’s eyes, our love for others will be greatly multiplied!

Whether you perceive yourself well endowed with gifts or not, the question is: Are you willing to die to self-sufficiency and pride? Are you willing to lay your gifts or your perceived lack of gifts on the altar and be seemingly insignificant so that He can develop in you what is eternal, useful and beautiful? He is the ONLY one who knows how to refine your personality to the point where it radiates Christ in His love and glory. We will flourish in ministry when our value and focus is HIM in us. After all, we have been fearfully and wonderfully knit together...stitch by stitch...for *His* purposes. No mistakes! –Karin

*“From now on, then, we do not know anyone in a purely human way...”*

*1st Cor. 5:16a*

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation...” 1st Cor. 5:17a*

*“Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ...” 1st Cor. 5:20a*

**Fall weekend** – October 10-12 in Cincinnati, Ohio. We will be visiting the Creation Museum. Let us or your pastor know by Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> of your intention to come with a deposit of \$10.