

Provocations: Good and Bad

Heb. 10:24

Introduction:

- A. **Provoke:** 1. to excite to some action or feeling. 2. to anger; irritate. 3. to stir up (action or feeling) 4. to call forth, evoke. (*Webster's New World Dictionary Of The American Language*)
- B. Good and bad provocations.
 - 1. Good (2 Cor. 9:2).
 - 2. Bad. (Gal. 5:26).
- C. We need to study some areas where we should and should not provoke others.

Discussion:

I. Provoking Unto Jealousy. (Rom. 11:14)

- A. Such a thing as *godly* jealousy (2 Cor. 11:2)
- B. Paul tried to stir Jews to jealousy (in a good sense) of Gentiles' blessings. (Rom. 11:11-14).
 - 1. So that they would want same blessings and go for them.
 - 2. We need to stir up others to this kind of godly jealousy.
- C. We need to be provoked to jealousy for the spiritual welfare of brethren (2 Cor. 11:1-5).
 - 1. Jealousy guard against corruption from simplicity of gospel. (v. 3)
 - 2. Jealousy guard against influence false teachers. (v.4, 13-15).
 - a. Such corrupt faith.
 - b. Such wolves in sheep's clothing catch and scatter sheep. (Mt. 7:15; John 10:12)
 - (1) Caught by deception of false doctrine.
 - (2) Scattered by tactics of factious men. (cf. Tit. 3:10)
 - 3. Jealousy guard own influence among brethren for good. (vv. 5-15)

II. Provoking Unto Love (Heb. 10:24)

- A. Verse 24 stands in contrast to verse 25.
 - 1. "Provoking unto love and good works" (v. 24) equals "exhorting one another" (v. 25).
 - 2. Assembling together furnishes occasion for provoking and admonishing.
 - a. Most churches do this at least 3 times a week.
 - b. Need to use these times effectively.
- B. This love is "agape" or a love of deep commitment.
 - 1. For the Lord. (1 John 5:3).
 - 2. For Christians. (1 John 5:2).
 - 3. For enemies. (Matt. 5:43-48).
 - 4. Love best seen by its actions. (1 Cor. 13:4-7).
 - 5. Can even "love" those don't particularly like - differs from "philo" love.

III. Provoking Unto Good Works. (Heb. 10:24)

- A. Good works a reason for being a Christian. (Eph. 2:8-10).
- B. Good works are scriptural works. (2 Tim. 3:16,17).
- C. Good works sometimes depend of ability and opportunity. (Gal. 6:10).

IV. Provoking Unto Anger/Wrath. (Eph. 6:1; Col. 2:21)

- A. Warning against abusive parents.
- B. Contrasted to training (nurture) and admonition OF THE LORD.
 - 1. **Paideia** - chastisement, training, discipline. (cf. Heb. 12:5-11).

2. **Nouthesia** - mild rebuke or warning. (Cf. Tit. 3:10; 1 Cor. 10:11).

- C. Not provoking by unreasonable and abusive treatment, but rather discipline and rebuke with firmness yet with love training them in the Lord.
- D. Neither excessive (abusive) discipline nor weak and painless discipline.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us provoke others to do good.
- B. Let us not provoke anyone to do evil.
- C. Could I provoke you to obey be saved today?