

# SILENCING FOOLS

MATTHEW 17:22-27

**Colossians 3:1-2** [1] If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.... (cont. below)

1) Set your minds on things that are \_\_\_\_\_, not on things on earth.

**Go Deeper:** Did you talk about your "mountain-top" experiences last week? Now talk about the feeling you had "coming off the mountain" and being confronted with "real life." How'd it feel? What stands out to you?  
Re-read Colossians 3:1-2. How do you actually LIVE this?

2) Your \_\_\_\_\_ offense hinders the gospel.

**2 Timothy 2:24-26** [24] And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, [25] correcting his opponents with gentleness. **God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, [26] and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.**

**Philippians 2:5-8** [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross...  
[5] **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus!**



**Go Deeper:** What are some markers for "unnecessary" offenses? When might an offense be necessary? Can you think of a time in the past when you unnecessarily offended someone? Besides the Pharisees, who else did Jesus offend? Can you point to specific Bible verses? According to the gospel of John, Jesus came full of grace and truth. What does this mean to you?

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3) Your unnecessary offense gives your enemy \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 2:13-17** [13] Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, [14] or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. [15] **For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.**

**1 Peter 3:14-16** [14] But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, [15] but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, [16] **having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.**

**Go Deeper:** Re-read the two passages from Peter above. What stands out to you as being difficult? In 1 Peter 3:15, we see "gentleness & respect" pop up. Is it possible to "offend" with "gentleness & respect?" How does the first passage ease your mind when it comes to "having to offend." What are we being asked to "defend" in verse 15? Does Jesus need us to defend Him?

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