

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." John 18:36 NKJV

Managing the Tension:

1. Understand _____ is in control (Romans 13:1).
2. Choose to make a _____, not a _____ (Luke 5:27-32).
3. Build _____ bridges (Acts 17:22-24, 27-32).
4. Reject _____ by association (Luke 7:34).
5. _____ being distracted from the primary issues (Matthew 22:15-21).
6. Never answer _____ question (Matthew 21:23-27).
7. Don't _____ unbelievers for behaving like unbelievers (1 Corinthians 5:12-13).

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6 NIV

The Bottom Line:

1. Focus on God.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

2. Focus on your own behavior.

Do everything without murmuring or questioning [the providence of God], so that you may prove yourselves to be blameless *and*, innocent *and* uncontaminated, children of God without blemish in the midst of a [morally] crooked and [spiritually] perverted generation, among whom you are seen as bright lights [beacons shining out clearly] in the world [of darkness]. Philippians 2:14-15 AMP

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